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Palestinian Affairs

Faruq Qaddumi Leads PLO Delegation to Damascus

Relations With Syria 'Normalized'

JN2605162091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] In Damascus today, the PLO announced that its relations with Syria have been normalized and that the two sides have agreed to forget the past after eight years of estrangement.

Following a meeting between Palestinian officials and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that a new era of Palestinian-Syrian relations has begun. He also said the talks dealt with initiatives to convene a Middle East peace conference.

Qaddumi: 'Agreement' on Conference

JN2605154591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1517 GMT 26 May 91

[Telephone interview with Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department chief, by correspondent Jamal al-'Abbadi in Damascus on 26 May—recorded]

[Text] [al-'Abbadi] Mr. Faruq, you held talks today with the brothers in the Syrian Arab Republic. Can you tell us about the topics discussed at these talks, and how do you view their progress?

[Qaddumi] Our talks with the Syrian brothers centered on finding a means of settlement, and on the current efforts being made to reach a settlement in the region. We were in agreement on the conditions required for holding an international peace conference, in which the elements necessary for achieving a just solution are available. The talks are still in progress. We have discussed all the aspects that can be talked about, especially the need to coordinate among the Arab parties concerned. All views were concurrent on this issue. We are still pursuing these talks.

[Al-'Abbadi] Mr. Faruq, have the talks dealt with the Palestinians' situation in Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] I think this issue concerns the Lebanese Government. We will continue our contacts with our brothers in Lebanon. Our brothers in Syria can contribute with us toward facilitating such a mission.

[Al-'Abbadi] Thank you, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department.

[Qaddumi] You are welcome.

'Abd-Rabbuh on 'Positive' Talks

JN2705124191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1125 GMT 27 May 91

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Information Department head, by Suhayl Khuri in Damascus, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, how are your talks with Syrian officials proceeding?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The talks were held in a positive atmosphere and on common ground— namely, the desire to render the peace efforts a success on the basis of the resolutions on international legitimacy and within the framework of the proposed international peace conference, which should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations and attended by all the parties in the dispute, including the PLO, Jordan, Syria, and the other parties. In fact, our meetings, which lasted all day yesterday, enabled us to more clearly define all our joint steps in the direction we have just mentioned. In addition, we and our brothers in Syria believe in the need to maintain a comprehensive and large-scale coordination, which will certainly include the other states and parties that are involved in the peace process as well as our relations with fraternal Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon. This requires more consultations and contacts in the near future. We hope that these contacts and consultations will result in a five-party meeting so that these parties can have a unified position so as to promote the peace process based on the resolutions of Arab and international legitimacy. Regarding Palestinian-Syrian relations, I can say that a new leaf was turned over and that future high-level contacts, consultations, and coordination will continue. I also say that this is a qualitative step in these relations. It reflects the two sides' desire and the will of the Palestinian intifadah in our occupied Palestinian homeland to maintain cohesion and coordination among the concerned parties, namely between Jordan and the PLO, Jordan and Syria, Syria and the PLO, and the PLO on the one hand and all the Arab parties involved on the other.

[Khuri] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, you met with Palestinian figures in Syria, and reports say the talks dealt with the possibility of the formation of a new Palestine National Council. Is it too early to talk about this?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The PLO Central Council has decided to form a new Palestine National Council, and a preparatory committee was set up for this purpose. Our meetings with a number of Palestinians in Damascus are part of our contacts with all our brothers, our national figures, and our factions in every capital and everywhere in an attempt to safeguard Palestinian national unity, which is epitomized by the PLO and its legitimate institutes and bodies. The PLO's doors are open to all the brothers, who should return to play their role. We are meeting with our brothers here within this framework, and the results are always positive because of this spirit.

[Khuri] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Information Department head, thank you very much.

'Abd-Rabbuh on 'Close Views'

JN2605171391 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member brother Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh has declared that there can be no peace in the Middle East without Syrian and PLO participation in any international conference convened to promote this goal. In a statement published in London today, brother 'Abd-Rabbuh said Syria and the Palestinians hold close views, both stressing the need for any settlement to be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and UN participation. He indicated that the Palestinian delegation's visit to Damascus is to explore with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister al-Shar' the possibility of calling a five-sided meeting of Arab states bordering occupied Palestine.

Factions Condemn Falasha Transfer

JN2605185191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Palestinian circles in the occupied territories consider the Falasha transfer operation as a new Israeli pretext for imposing another fait accompli in order to keep the occupied territories.

Palestinian organizations in Damascus have denounced the evacuation of the Ethiopian Jews to Israel with all that it implies in terms of establishing new settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, while Israel continues to deport Palestinians—something the UN Security Council has unanimously denounced.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] said the transfer of Ethiopian citizens of Jewish persuasion to occupied Palestine is being carried out at the expense of Palestinian citizens and is further complicating chances for peace in the Middle East. The Front criticized Arab silence over the new waves of emigration to Israel and appealed to the international community and its bodies to protect the Palestinians and their land.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine under Nayif Hawatimah and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front leveled similar criticism.

The three Palestinian organizations issued their statements in Damascus, where a PLO delegation began talks with Syrian officials in the first meeting between the PLO and Syria since 1983.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Damascus today was fruitful and conducive to an identity of views. He added: We are not only satisfied; indeed, these fruitful results will strengthen Syrian-Palestinian ties and reflect positively on the entire Arab world. Qaddumi said views and positions of both sides were identical.

On Palestinian representation in a peace conference, Qaddumi said: First we must know the substance of this conference before discussing formalities.

Following the al-Shar'-Qaddumi meeting, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, said: We can say that a new era has begun in Palestinian-Syrian relations. He affirmed that a peace conference cannot be held without Syria and the PLO, because each has territories occupied by Israel.

The Damascus talks dealt with recent peace efforts and the convocation of a conference attended by the Arab states and Israel with active UN participation. In this regard, both Syria and the PLO believe they have a primary role in the peace process, despite Israel's rejection of PLO participation in the conference and its desire to hold it in Syria's absence.

For his part, PFLP Spokesman 'Umar Qutaysh pointed out the identity of views of the Syria and Palestinian sides was apparent in their emphasis on the point that international legitimacy must be the basis of all solutions in the Middle East. He added that Syrians and Palestinians are in agreement that a solution for the Israeli-Arab dispute must be comprehensive and that they reject any partial or separate solutions. The two sides stressed the need for the participation of all parties concerned with this solution and emphasized the danger of Jewish settlements and the new wave of Jewish emigration.

Importance of Unified Stand Viewed

LD2805190291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The visit of the PLO delegation led by brother Faruq Qaddumi to Damascus provides all the basic reasons for the normalization of Palestinian-Syrian relations at a fateful stage and requires all forms of coordination, cooperation, and concurrence between the two sides. The results of the U.S. secretary of state's four tours in the region have highlighted the extreme importance of a unified Palestinian-Syrian stand. For no international or regional conference, or any conference under any other name, could possibly be held without the participation of the PLO in addition to Syrian participation. Thus, the enemy [Israeli] Government tried in return to publicize the possibility of holding such a conference without the participation of Syria and without the smallest PLO presence. However, Damascus foiled this attempt by adopting a firm position. This led the United States to announce for its part the failure of James Baker's shuttles because of this position on the one hand and because of the continuous Jewish settlement activity in the occupied territories on the other.

The fact is that the diplomatic interpretation of the meaning of the U.S. announcement is effectively to put pressure on Syria along with the customary U.S. verbal criticism of the enemy government concerning the settlement activity.

In the face of such a pressure, the wise Palestinian-Syrian step was to turn the page of the past and to look forward positively and effectively to the future, with joint efforts, on the path of serious coordination. In any case, it is expected that this step will lead to further necessary steps until the holding of the summit between the PLO, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon with the realization of their unified strategy toward the common goal, namely the convening of an international conference in accordance with international legality and on the basis of UN resolutions and under the latter's auspices.

If the United States still rejects these Arab efforts in advance, the perseverance of the five Arab sides in pursuing their legitimate goal will create around them a bond of international support in which the USSR and the European states will take part. This will ultimately mean in the next few days that Washington will be compelled to accept this goal under the cover of international legality. No matter what happens, Syrian-Palestinian coordination is necessary and important in this stage and effectively prepares us for all eventualities.

PNSF Condemns U.S. Role in Falasha Transfer

JN2805180691 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] met on 27 May to discuss Arab and Palestinian political developments. The Front discussed reports that the Zionist entity has brought thousands of Falasha Jews into occupied Palestine at a time when it is continuing to deport Palestinian citizens.

These Zionist measures once again prove that the Zionist enemy insists on its occupation of the Arab territories. They also underscore this enemy's aggressive and expansionist ambitions on Arab land.

It is of strong concern that while world attention focused on developments in Ethiopia, the U.S. President devoted his personal efforts and those of his country to implement the transfer of Falasha Jews to occupied Palestine.

U.S. patronage of intensive Jewish emigration to occupied territories, and its political and financial contribution to the continuation and expansion of this emigration are totally out of line with the U.S. condemnation of settlements in the occupied Arab territories and with the eagerness for peace exhibited by Washington.

The PNSF statement [as heard] concludes: While we condemn the Israeli conduct and the U.S. position, we denounce the Arab silence over this issue, and we demand that the Arab states and the Arab League raise the issue at all international levels, especially at the Security Council, because of the danger it poses to national Palestinian rights and the pan-Arab destiny.

'Arafat Warnings on Hijackings Said Distorted

JN2805202591 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1604 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The political editor commented on journalistic truthfulness, saying: When brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, grants a press interview, regardless of its nature, the interview is automatically documented. The interview is recorded, and its contents are transferred to papers contained in a special file so that statements, utterances, and even insinuations are not distorted, especially since we are certain that some journalists are engaged in interpretations related to their desire to become famous, even if this were to be attained at the expense of journalistic truthfulness. Similarly, other journalists purposely twist statements to damage some issues in implementation of certain objectives and goals and through specific phases. To prevent distortions from achieving their purposes, we are airing the accurate and full answer given by brother leader Abu-'Ammar, president of the State of Palestine, to a question addressed to him by Austrian journalist Mr. Chorherr, editor in chief of the newspaper DIE PRESSE, on the issue of terrorism and airplane hijacking exactly as it is contained in a tape recording made at the interview. Likewise, we will transmit the answer adopted or made up by the aforementioned journalist, so that the difference will be made clear. We will do this in both Arabic and English [as heard; however, only Arabic is heard throughout item], the language used during the interview.

In the interview, journalist Chorherr addressed the following question to brother Abu-'Ammar:

[Begin announcer-read interview segment] Question: Do you expect another wave of terrorism, such as plane hijackings or something of the sort?

Answer: Who knows? I do not know. When the commotion starts, when the crimes against the Palestinians increase, nobody can control the reactions and the chaos. It is true that we have succeeded thus far in stopping reactions. However, patience has limits. Frankly, how long can I keep things under control while the other side persists in its crimes against our people, against our women, against our children, and also against our Christian and Islamic holy sites? For how long can I keep things under control? [end interview segment]

This phenomenon, which has been recently repeated, shows that the whole thing is premeditated. No sooner had these statements been published than certain news agencies carried the alleged statements of brother leader Abu-'Ammar to publicize them worldwide. On this occasion, the political editor of the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY asks all those who published this paragraph from the interview brother leader Abu-'Ammar gave to Austrian journalist Chorherr to publish the correction

that we are airing, relying on the tape recordings we have of the interview. All parties have the right to ascertain the truthfulness of this if they so desire. Likewise, we have the right to air corrections and to have these corrections published.

The newspaper DIE PRESSE carried the answer to the question as follows: If no efforts are made now to resolve the Palestine question, I do not know how long can I prevent them—that is, the Palestinians—from resuming plane hijackings. The Palestinian leader added: Thus far, it has been possible to prevent hijackings. However, patience has its limits.

'Arafat on Peace Prospects, Kuwait Trials

JN2805084291 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 27 May 91 pp 4, 5

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by Basim Sakkuja in Tunis—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sakkuja] Brother Abu-'Ammar: The Geneva meeting with Bessmertnykh. What happened at that meeting?

['Arafat] You know there is constant Palestinian-Soviet coordination through the Soviet-Palestinian committee, which holds continuous meetings in Moscow or Tunis. As you may recall, the committee's latest meeting was held during Baker's visit to Moscow, where brother Abu-Mazin (Mahmud 'Abbas) stayed for further consultations on the request of the Soviet leadership following the committee's meetings. The Geneva meetings showed that the cochairmen of the Middle East peace conference cannot sidestep the Palestinians, for shortly after Baker's meeting with the PLO-instructed Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem, we met with the Soviet minister.

Bessmertnykh briefed me on the details of his talks with Mr. Baker and on the results of his tour of Arab countries and Israel. Meanwhile, I briefed him on the information I had on the issue. I presented a special message to Mr. Baker in which we said that peace cannot be established in the region by ignoring the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights in accordance with international legitimacy. We have no differences in views with the Soviet Union; I heard Minister Bessmertnykh emphasize these clear points, and my brothers had previously heard him do so.

[Sakkuja] You are reassured then about the Soviet position?

['Arafat] The Soviet position is very reassuring. Agreement between us also covers the details and there is coordination between us.

[Sakkuja] But will Washington develop a conviction that it will be difficult to ignore the Palestinian figure, that is, the PLO?

['Arafat] Is Baker's meeting with our leaders in the occupied territories far away from us? Does Baker not know that his four meetings with them was done in full coordination with the PLO Executive Committee? He knows this and others, including the Israelis, know it. For example, there was a telephone call. The three brothers phoned me in Geneva following their meeting with Baker and briefed me on the details of their talks with the U.S. secretary, although telephones in Israel are tapped, as you know. I do not usually phone my brothers in Jerusalem, but that call was an opportunity to talk to them, because I was in Geneva where a telephone conversation with them was possible. On the same day, the other chairman of the conference was meeting with the PLO Executive Committee delegation. This picture in itself gives the real dimensions of what is going on as no one can conceal the sun with his fingers.

[Sakkuja] Why the maneuvering now?

['Arafat] There is a saying that whenever something is perfect, one tries to find fault with it. We must understand, and this is what I have been saying from the beginning, that there are Israeli No's. No to Jerusalem. No to the international conference. No to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and no to the Palestinian state. Unfortunately, many of these No's are in line with the U.S. viewpoint. All this cannot produce peace. The United States may exploit the results of the Gulf war and seek to impose a fait accompli in the Middle East. However, this will be temporary. The United States tried this with Camp David and tried to make the world believe that peace was achieved. The three heads of state said there would be no war after this. What happened later? The most tragic and serious wars broke out starting with southern Lebanon, Beirut, and ending with the Gulf war.

[Sakkuja] Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal says that what is taking place is no more than a U.S. public relations campaign. What do you say to that?

['Arafat] I would like to say this: It should be made clear that, following the Gulf war and after the Iraqis raised the slogan of linkage between the Gulf and Palestinian issues—linkage that was rejected by the U.S. Administration—many Europeans, and some Arab countries—all of whom did not reject this linkage categorically but said that the Palestinian question would be solved after the Gulf war—face a historic challenge now that the Gulf war has ended. Either we have an international legitimacy that uses double standards or only one standard. The new world system is tantamount to slavery of the region's people to the new Rome and its Ceasar. This means there will be no peace, security, or stability. No one, including world leaders, should harbor the thought that this nation will submit to the new hegemony. Either we become an indivisible part of this system, or we reject it if it comes into being at our expense. If our generation does not oppose it, the generation after us will fight it. This is a basic fact that no one should ignore if he does not want to surrender his faith, ideology, nationalism,

and patriotism. It should be well understood that our Arab nation will not accept the new world system being established at its expense.

I say this loud and clear so that the world at large may hear. If there are some who believe that there is a new Rome, he must know that Spartacus was Palestinian, Christ was Palestinian, the apostles were Palestinians, and Peter who occupied Rome and won the hearts of the Romans was also a Palestinian. In this land are a people of exceeding strength [Koranic verse]. I do not say this just for the sake of saying it, or for raising morale. I am merely looking at history. The masses will teach those who do not want to learn from history. Those who do not want to learn from the experience of other nations will be relegated to the dustbin of history. [passage omitted]

[Sakkijha] Brother Abu-'Ammar, what about the Palestinians in Kuwait? It is clear that they are going through a tragedy. (CNN carried live broadcasts of the trials)

['Arafat] I told them that a new Sabra and Shatila will soon take place. I expected this, although the Palestinians in Kuwait refused to carry weapons when it was proposed to them. If they had carried weapons, they would have hampered Schwarzkopf's entry and he would now have been standing at the borders of Kuwait, like Sharon stopped at the borders of Beirut. Some of weapons were the same as those that were used against us in Beirut, cluster bombs, smart bombs, vacuum bombs, and many more. Did the Americans not consider us a field for experimenting with their weapons? Did the U.S. defense secretary not travel to Israel after the war to thank them for trying out U.S. weapons?

I say this and I reaffirm that our people refused to carry arms. For eight months, they stayed there to operate the schools, electricity, facilities, water, and everything else. They were protecting the people and providing them with supplies. After all they have done, the Palestinian people receive this inhuman, immoral, and hostile treatment. But they must realize that patience has its limits. No one should think that the Palestinians are cut off from everywhere and that they are like furniture that can be moved around. I make these statements so that they can hear me: We now hold all the countries responsible that have forces in Kuwaiti territory. They have a moral, political, practical, and humanitarian responsibility. Some of them have taken action, including Europeans, Americans, and Arabs to stop this farce. We hope this farce will stop.

Let me just tell our brothers the officials in Kuwait that grudges do not build a state or society. They should not forget that Kuwait was built by the Palestinian people. Our community in Kuwait was one of the most influential Palestinian communities in all Arab countries. Our losses have exceeded $12 billion in the form of end of service indemnity, savings, projects, and interest. Many families lost their whole life's savings.

Let me also say that these grudges are based on lies and untruths. Could anyone who cooperated with the Iraqis have stayed behind in Kuwait? They all left with them. This is a lie. They were loose gangs lead by members of the [al-Sabah] family. Or is this a bill that the Palestinians will constantly have to pay? Only time will reveal the true facts.

[Sakkijha] How does Abu-'Ammar feel when he hears a Kuwaiti official say that we are ready to hold contacts with the Israelis?

['Arafat] You know what I feel? I feel sorry for him. I ask him whether the price for liberating Kuwait is to torment the Palestinians.

[Sakkijha] How do you see Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

['Arafat] These relations are very good, thank God. There is complete understanding and coordination continues down to the minutest detail. Do not forget that we are suffering the same problems after the war.

[Sakkijha] What about the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

['Arafat] Neither I nor His Majesty King Husayn were the ones who ruined the joint delegation. It was the Americans and the Israelis who did. This is why we only had one thing to say: You have no say in what we do. What do you want to do? Is this merely cosmetic surgery after the war? Is it to tighten control even further? Relations between us and our brothers in Jordan and other Arab countries are none of their business. What is the destiny of Jerusalem? What is the future of the occupied Arab territories? Will there be an end to occupation? Will there be implementation of Resolutions 242, 605, and all the other resolutions? Will building settlements stop? Or is the proposal now autonomy? Regardless of the nomenclature, it is autonomy for some residents but not the territories. This would enable them, during this period, to bring in the 3 million Jews and settle them on these territories. Then comes the transfer. Nobody can be deceived. Neither we nor our brothers in Jordan can be cheated by this.

Algeria

Algerian-Moroccan Summit Meeting Held in Oran

Bendjedid Receives De Cuellar

LD2605204591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] An Algerian-Moroccan summit tomorrow in Oran will bring together President Chadli Bendjedid and the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, in the framework of the latter's visit to Algeria. The Algerian-Moroccan summit will discuss bilateral relations and the situation prevailing in the Maghreb with a view to giving an impulse to the Arab Maghreb Union.

The Saharan question may be discussed as well at this summit, all the more because it coincides with the visit of UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar who arrived in Oran this afternoon from Morocco.

On his arrival, he was welcomed by President Chadli Bendjedid who had gone to Oran on the eve of the Algerian-Moroccan summit. Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali and Mohamed Sahnoun, diplomatic adviser at the Presidency of the Republic, also attended.

After the welcoming ceremony, the head of state offered a lunch banquet in honor of the guest from the United Nations.

On arrival in Oran, the UN secretary-general made a statement in which he stated:

[Begin De Cuellar recording in French fading to Arabic translation] As you know, this is a courtesy visit given the ties of friendship that I am greatly honored to have with your president. But also and as usual, this will be an occasion to discuss a number of international problems. We are greatly concerned by the problems of the Middle East, which are a source of preoccupation for His Majesty King Hassan II and for President Chadli, and naturally by the question of the Western Sahara that necessarily interests Algeria.

But we will deal in particular with the problem of the Middle East. You know that President Chadli is very interested in these issues which are of great concern to us. [end recording]

King Hassan Arrives

LD2705171291 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 May 91

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II arrived in Oran at noon today on a friendly working visit to Algeria. For more details, we have the following dispatch from our radio correspondents in Algeria.

[Correspondents] At noon today, His Majesty King Hassan II began his friendly working visit to sister Algeria at the invitation of his brother, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria. [passage omitted]

Hassan, Bendjedid Hold Talks

LD2805040991 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 May 91

[Excerpt] On the first day of his friendly working visit to sister Algeria, His Majesty King Hassan II held tete-a-tete talks with President Chadli Bendjedid. The two leaders also cochaired a working session. This evening, President Chadli Bendjedid hosted a banquet in honor of His Majesty King Hassan II. More details from our correspondent in Oran:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] On the first day of the friendly working visit by His Majesty King Hassan II to sister Algeria at the invitation of his brother, President Chadli Bendjedid, King Hassan II was received this evening at President Chadli Bendjedid's residence in Bousfer, in the suburbs of Oran. The honorable monarch was accompanied by his royal highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohammed, and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid. Afterwards, His Majesty King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid chaired an enlarged working session attended by his royal highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohammed; His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid; Mr. Abdellatif Filali, the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; and, on the Algerian side, by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche; Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali; the defense minister, General Khaled Nezzar; and Mr. Abdelmajid Allahoum, the Algerian ambassador to Morocco. At the end of this session, His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency the Algerian president held private talks. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ghozali, Filali Discuss Ties

LD2805152291 Algiers APS in English 1009 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Algiers, 28/5/91 (APS)—"The building of the Union of Arab Maghreb is still young but promising as the concordance of views of Maghreb countries during the Gulf war foreshadow an important role for them in the unification of Arab ranks which showed a certain fragility at this level", the Algerian and Moroccan foreign ministers, Sid Ahmed Ghozali and Abdellatif Filali said Monday in a TV program.

The two ministers expressed their satisfaction about the relations existing between Algeria and Morocco. "We have not exploited all our human or material resources but with will and self-reliance shall be up to aspirations of the people", said Ghozali.

The two ministers who are in Oran in the frame of an Algero-Moroccan summit which is being held in Oran (450 kms west of Algiers) recognized however that the commercial relations are still low but the two sides are working hard to improve them.

The Algeria minister said that one should get rid of the reflex that has been acquired and which consists in only dealing with "developed countries". We must also get rid of bureaucracy, he added. As concerns a common Maghreb defence against a possible European "invasion" mainly on the eve of 1992, the Moroccan minister said that we must also have a long term vision at the level of the Arab Maghreb to face up the situation.

Asked about what is expected from the Algero-Moroccan summit, Filali said he was optimistic mainly that conditions for the success of this initiative exist.

Egypt

Reportage on Kuwaiti Defense Minister Visit

Arrives 26 May

NC2605143991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim arrived in Cairo today at the head of a delegation on a two-day visit.

Military talks between Lieutenant General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi Sulayman, Egyptian defense minister, and the Kuwaiti defense minister are expected to start this evening.

Major General Mahmud Fu'ad Ahmad, commander of the central military region, and Kuwaiti Embassy staff members met the Kuwaiti defense minister at the Cairo Airport.

Defense Ministers Hold Talks

NC2605200091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Egyptian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi Sulayman and Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim held military talks this evening. The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Lieutenant General Zahir 'Abd-al-Rahman, commander of the Air Defense Forces; Major General Husni Sulayman, assistant defense minister; and Major General Hitlar Tantawi, secretary general of the Defense Ministry. On the Kuwaiti side, the talks were attended by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari, Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo; Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kharraz, military attache at the Kuwaiti Embassy; and the members of the delegation accompanying the Kuwaiti defense minister on his visit to Egypt.

The Kuwaiti defense minister praised Egypt's role in the Gulf crisis and said that Egypt's position had a good and strong effect on all our brothers who cared about Kuwait's Arabism and sovereignty.

In a statement after the one-hour meeting, he said: Egypt's role in general significantly affected the liberation of Kuwait, in which our brothers participated.

Asked about his country's views on the security arrangements and Egypt and Syria's participation in these arrangements, he said: It is natural that Egyptian and Syrian participation will have a political and military effect on safeguarding Kuwait's security against any foreign threat. My visit to Egypt is taking place within this framework.

He explained that he will convey a message about this to President Husni Mubarak tomorrow from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait. He expressed the hope that the results will be generally satisfactory to the Arabs.

Asked if the talks have dealt with the question of retaining some of the Egyptian forces until the discussion of security arrangements is completed, the Kuwaiti defense minister said: Let us wait until I meet with President Husni Mubarak tomorrow.

He explained that the talks dealt with the participation of the Egyptian Armed Forces in rebuilding the Kuwaiti Defense Forces.

Regarding future military cooperation between the two countries, he said: There is a long-standing agreement between the two countries. There is agreement on Egyptian arms consignments to Kuwait. Some of these weapons are still in Egypt, such as Amun rockets; they will be shipped to Kuwait as soon as we are ready to receive them.

He noted that the program of his visit to Egypt does not include the conclusion of new arms deals. Other visits will be exchanged between the defense ministers and the commanders of the Armed Forces in the two countries.

Received by Mubarak

NC2705100791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—This morning President Husni Mubarak received Kuwaiti Defense Minister 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, who is visiting Cairo.

After the meeting, the Kuwaiti minister stated that he and the president discussed the issue of Arab cooperation in defending the Gulf countries, particularly Kuwait, against any future foreign threat. He said the president made certain remarks on technical issues related to the subject and promised that Egypt will be at the forefront of countries to safeguard security in the Gulf, in particular Kuwait.

The minister was asked whether an agreement has been reached on the presence of Arab forces in Kuwait. He said this was one of the topics he discussed with the president. He added that details of this matter will be made public in the future.

Responding to a question on the presence of U.S. troops, the Kuwaiti minister said that the presence of Arab forces in general is the basis of any troop presence. He said that the presence of Egyptian, Syrian, Gulf, and other forces in particular will be the buttress for the presence of military forces in Kuwait.

He remarked: As far as friendly forces are concerned, the matter will be discussed with the leaders of friendly states. However, he added, I cannot announce anything right now.

He said Iran cannot be ignored in discussions on the possibility of involving that country in the Gulf security arrangements. However, we leave these matters to the politicians in our governments.

The defense minister said only the Egyptian defense minister could answer a question on whether the Egyptian forces stationed in Kuwait will return. It is up to Egypt to decide whether these forces will stay, leave, or be changed. He noted that he had not discussed these details with President Mubarak.

Shaykh 'Ali Salim al-Sabah termed groundless reports that Iraqi troops are massing on the Kuwaiti borders. He maintained that the Iraqi troops massed in the vicinity of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders are stationed there to repel the rebellion in southern Iraq.

The minister was asked if there has been any agreement with the United States which grants it fixed military bases to secure a permanent military presence in Kuwait. The minister said: I answered that question in Kuwait four days ago. I repeat that there is no intention to establish U.S. bases in Kuwait. However, he said, this does not mean that Kuwait will not have certain arrangements with friendly states.

He said he could not reveal the contents of the message he handed to President Mubarak. However, I touched on its relevant points during this press conference.

Concludes Visit; Departs

NC2805184791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2353 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah left Cairo this afternoon. The Kuwaiti minister went to Damascus yesterday for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas on defense relations and coordination between Syria and Kuwait, and then returned to Cairo. He was seen off at the airport by Staff Major General Mahmud Fu'ad, commander of the Central Military Zone; and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Cairo.

Debt Reduction Agreement Reached With Paris Club

NC2505053491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Paris, 24 May (MENA)—It was learned from a source in Paris tonight that an agreement has been reached between the Egyptian delegation and the delegations representing creditor countries in the Paris Club on the principle of reducing Egypt's foreign debt by 50 percent. The reduction will be carried out in phases.

In the first phase, debts will be immediately reduced by 15 percent. Another 15 percent reduction will be carried out in 18 months, and the remaining 20 percent reduction will be carried out 18 months later. In other words, the debt will be reduced by 30 percent within the next 36 months, after which the debt will be reduced by 20 percent.

Delegation Returns From Meeting

NC2705082591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—The Egyptian delegation to the Paris Club meetings, which includes Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, returned to Cairo today.

Upon arrival, Dr. Salah Hamid stated that the Paris Club has responded to Egypt's request and decided to reduce its $20.2-billion debt by 50 percent in two phases: 30 percent in the first phase and 20 percent in the second.

The Central Bank governor said the decision reflects appreciation for President Mubarak's efforts and honorable stands during the Gulf crisis and for the daring steps taken to reform the Egyptian economy.

Dr. Hamid pointed out that certain countries will invest part of their debts in Egyptian currency in the fields of environmental protection and rehabilitating Egyptians vocational skills. He said that this will alleviate the burden from the Egyptian economy.

He added that the members of the Paris Club, to whom Egypt owes 90 percent of its total debts, have agreed to reduce the debts by more than 50 percent. He said this matter will be discussed further at bilateral levels.

He noted that the other countries—to whom Egypt owes 10 percent of its debts—who are bound by the Paris Club terms, will apply the Paris Club decision to reduce the debts by 50 percent.

Foreign Minister on Arab Solidarity, Peace

NC2605154991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that the agreement Egypt reached with Paris Club will boost its economic reform efforts. He added that the agreement reflects international confidence in Egypt's economy, and this will provide future backing for Egypt's economic efforts.

The foreign minister said in a statement today that it is necessary to close Arab ranks on solid foundations following the Gulf crisis. He said this important and major issue is on President Husni Mubarak's mind, and it is one of the objectives of Egyptian diplomacy. Therefore, he added, a new stage must begin in the Arab world for cooperation through dialogue and understanding. He added that President Mubarak wants to restore inter-Arab cooperation, dialogue, and understanding.

The foreign minister said that after what happened in the Arab world, it will take some efforts to return the Arab situation to its former status and to achieve peace and cooperation. He pointed out that dialogue is the path that must be followed to achieve inter-Arab cooperation and solidarity. The foreign minister noted the importance of activating Arab action through the Arab League to achieve Arab and regional security.

The foreign minister noted that he received messages today from the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister on the Middle East peace process, the general situation in the region, and bilateral relations. He said that recent U.S. statements on the Middle East reflect U.S. and international interest in the need to stimulate the peace process in the region to attain a peaceful settlement and to resolve the Palestinian issue.

Musa welcomed the Japanese foreign minister's visit to Egypt on 29 May. He said the visit is within the framework of the close relations and cooperation between the two countries. It also falls within the context of the new international relations, in which both Japan and Egypt seek to play a role.

Foreign Minister Meets GCC Ambassadors

NC2805191391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1803 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met the the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries tonight.

Following the meeting, Kuwaiti Ambassador 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari said that the foreign minister talked to the ambassadors about developments in the Middle East, Egypt's position on these developments, and its current efforts to achieve security and stability. The Kuwaiti ambassador said the GCC ambassadors assured Minister Musa of their full cooperation with Egypt in achieving these goals.

Concerning the visit to Egypt by Kuwaiti Defense Minister 'Ali Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti ambassador said that Minister al-Sabah told President Muhammad Husni Mubarak that the Kuwaiti amir, Government, and people appreciate Egypt's positive political, military, and information policies for confronting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and during the liberation of Kuwait. Minister al-Sabah and President Mubarak also discussed the role that Egypt can play now and in the future to enhance regional security.

Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr said that Egypt has completed drafting a working paper outlining the way to implement the Damascus Declaration in various fields, particularly in economic and military cooperation. Abu-al-Nasir said this working paper will be discussed at the meeting of experts from the GCC countries, Egypt, and Syria next month in Riyadh.

Jihad Member Arrested in Bani Suwayf

NC2505140491 Cairo MENA in English 1155 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Bani Suwayf, Upper Egypt, 25 May (MENA)—Ashraf 'Abd-al- Wahhab, a member of Jihad Organisation, who was arrested yesterday while trying to throw an explosive charge at the State Security building here, today gave names of other members of the Jihad.

The director of the security in Bani Suwayf said that the security bodies are now looking for these elements to put them on trial.

Ashraf 'Abd-al-Wahhab has been arrested three times before as he posed a threat to the state security. He was referred to the state prosecution today on charges of trying to [words indistinct] building of the State Security.

Ghali Welcomes Syrian-Lebanese Treaty

NC2405120691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1058 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs, has stated that Egypt considers the agreement on cooperation and coordination between Syria and Lebanon a positive step on the path of the brotherly relations between the two countries and peoples.

In a statement today, Dr. Ghali expressed the hope that this agreement will achieve more Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. He also expressed the hope that the agreement will help the Lebanese Government in its demand for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 425 on Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and for the imposition of Lebanese authority on all Lebanese territory.

Libya

Government 'Ready To Meet' U.S. 'at Any Level'

LD2805134991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1214 GMT 28 May 91

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, May 28 (TAP)—Libya wants to establish diplomatic and trade relations with the United States and Great Britain, the secretary general of the Libyan People's Committee in charge of foreign affairs, Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, said in an interview published Tuesday by the London daily MIDEAST MIRROR.

Disagreements between Tripoli and Washington should not prevent the two countries from maintaining normal relations, the Libyan foreign minister pointed out adding that his country was ready to meet with the United States at any level.

Al-Bishari severely criticized "unfounded" accusations that Libya supported terrorists, organized destabilization operations abroad and was producing chemical arms.

Libya, he further said, opposes all forms of terrorism, is committed to not producing chemical arms, and calls on U.S. enterprises to invest in Libya including the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant due to open shortly.

U.S. Media Cited on Arms Transports to Iraq

LD2605215691 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] The U.S. CNN television network has reported that Libya has ignored the embargo imposed on Iraq. Quoting the magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, the broadcast said that Libya has been sending artillery and military equipment to Iraq. According to sources in the Middle East, the magazine said that the weapons have been transported from Libya by air to Jordan and then to Iran and from there they are shipped by trucks to Iraq. The U.S. television network said that the U.S. war department did not make any comment on the subject.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 27 May

LD2705132791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, 27 May (JANA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. The Palestinian president was welcomed at Tripoli International Airport by the deputy secretary of the General People's Congress.

Ends Visit; Departs

LD2905040691 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Tripoli, 28 May (JANA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Tripoli this afternoon at the end of a short visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The Palestinian president was seen off at Tripoli International Airport by brother Abd al'Razzaq al-Sa'sa', secretary of the General People's Congress, and [word indistinct], and members of the Embassy of Palestine to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Tunisia

Further Reports on Ennahdha 'Conspiracy' Aftermath

Bel Ali Address to Nation

LD2605103591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 May 91

[Speech to the nation by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on 25 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Brother and sister citizens: In recent days, as has always been the way of the Tunisians when the homeland is exposed to crises and difficulties, you have responsibly and spontaneously expressed high patriotic motivation and noble national perception. You have condemend and denounced terrorism and those who practice it. You have chanted slogans for Tunisia and you have shown your readiness to defend it and defend its gains and institutions.

You have done this because you have clearly seen that the target of those who incited sedition and terrorism was not a person or a regime, but the security, stability, and prosperity of this country. As soon as they had achieved this aim—God forbid—the country would fall easy prey to them and those behind them.

I sincerely and honestly salute these wonderful patriotic stances. I address my thanks and appreciation to all the citizens, parties, organizations, and societies for standing united in the face of those who incite division and conflict and who stir up sedition in the name of our most sacred sanctity—namely, the religion of all Tunisians, which God intended as the religion of fraternity, compassion, love, and harmony.

I would like to reassure everyone once again that Tunisia and its course are safe, thanks to the firmness of the state authorities, the alertness of the civil institutions, and their rallying around the principles of the change [of 7 November 1987, when Ben Ali took power] and the reform course that we have followed since 7 November.

I consider that those responsible for this conspiracy against this society and its future have, by their action, isolated themselves from the rest of society. They took into consideration neither the teachings of religion nor the statutes of civil law. Justice will have its say in this matter in an independent and unbiased way.

A phenomenon such as this, which is alien to society, should not distract us from the development work which

is the basis of stability and balance. Nor should it distract us from securing the public rights and liberties which are the correct and suitable ground for achieving development and fulfilling the first rights of the citizen, which are employment, health, education, and the provision of the necessary services. I salute educators and parents and call on them to increase their support for our children and educational institutions so that they may remain secure from the influence of the adventurers. I appreciate the efforts exerted by the committee for protecting the university. I also salute the media workers and the various parties and their activists, with the Democratic Constitutional Rally at their forefront, for standing—all of them—together and closing ranks to defend the institutions of the modern state and its gains. I consider this as a new step which should be developed in order to establish a society where there is a variety of opinions but which shows solidarity on its fateful issues.

God has said: So those who believe [words indistinct]—upon them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve. God has spoken the truth.

Prime Minister Condemns 'Terrorism'

LD2505185391 Tunis Tunisian Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 May 91

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Opening the proceedings of the third session of the Higher Council for Planning in the capital this morning, the prime minister said that participation by the citizen is achieved through organizations, parties, and associations and the various constituents of society. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hamed Karoui explained that the third meeting of the Higher Council for Planning is being held under special circumstances because an extremist minority has departed from the consensus and embarked on terrorism with the aim of torpedoing the gains of the community and pouncing on the regime. He also explained that this minority, which lacks the logic of evidence and the simplest rules of political actions, has strange (?alliances) which cannot be explained by any logic apart from that of opportunism, serving personal aims, and being hostile to the constituents of society. [passage omitted]

'Peaceful' Marches Protest Ennahdha

LD2405224791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 May 91

[Excerpt] In affirmation of the citizens' commitment, wherever they might be in the country, to the gains of the republican regime, out of loyalty (?to preserve the impregnability), stability, and the state of institutions and law, and in defense of Tunisia's gains—the Tunisia of the new era under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali—huge peaceful marches have been organized in various wilayas of the republic to condemn and reject the bloody conspiracy that was hatched by the so-called Ennahdha movement in an attempt to shake the country's stability and impregnability and impose a religious and theocratic state on Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Constitutional Rally Condemns Plot

LD2505194591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 May 91

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the Constitutional Democratic Rally met yesterday evening under the chairmanship of Rally Vice President Mr. Hamed Karoui. [passage omitted]

The Political Bureau studied the general situation in the country in light of the statements which were presented by his excellency the interior minister during the public news conference he held on Wednesday, 22 May.

In its statement, the Political Bureau strongly condemned the terrorist conspiracy plot against the homeland and the people's gains, which was hatched by a minority group that calls itself the Ennahdha Movement. It also condemned the escalation of violence and criminal acts with which the misguided minority tried to harm the state and educational institutions, to drag our young general to a dead end, and to exploit some of our youth through deception to achieve its plan of escalation and its infernal program. [passage omitted]

Dumas on Asylum for Tunisian Integrationists

LD2405203791 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1600 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Roland Dumas has just arrived in Algiers from Tunis, where officials fully briefed him on the unveiling of a plot inspired by integrationists. Three hundred people have been arrested this week. Specifically, France granted asylum to a number of Tunisian figures who claim to take their inspiration from integrationism, so this plot is an embarrassment for Paris. Now listen to the reactions of the foreign minister talking to Francoise Paoletti:

[Begin recording] [Dumas] Any foreign citizen who benefits from asylum in France must adopt certain behavior. This behavior rests on respect for French law. That is to say, a foreign citizen must not undertake illegal actions, must not transform his place of asylum into a platform to act against governments with which we have diplomatic relations; in short he must conform to French law. So asylum, yes, but with respect for French law.

[Paoletti] Apparently this was not the case. The integrationists in France adopted decisions which nearly provoked a coup here.

[Dumas] This deserves special attention. Tunisian authorities explained the case to me. When I am back in Paris I shall see what is the exact situation. If a call to order must be made to these personalities, a reminder of the framework of respect for French law, it will be made under the conditions which I just explained.

[Paoletti] No possibility of extradiction for the time being?

[Dumas] Listen, everything deserves consideration. [end recording]

Kurdistan Council Condemns U.S. Presence

JN2505194291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1913 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—The Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region has strongly denounced the U.S. and Western military presence in Dahuk Governorate and said that the presence constitutes flagrant interference and another link in the chain of unjust aggression against Iraq.

In a cable to the heads of states party in the U.S.-Atlantic coalition taking part in the aggression against Iraq, Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, the Council's president, said that this flagrant interference is a form of extortion under the cover of humanitarian acts.

On behalf of the Executive Council members, he rejected all the schemes to use the problem of refugees for political ends, which infringe on Iraq's sovereignty, the dignity of its people, and its national unity.

He stressed that the Iraqi people's humanitarian problems can be resolved when foreign military troops depart Iraqi territory and the economic blockade imposed on Iraq is lifted. Iraq will remain proud and lofty under the banner of its leader and great symbol, struggler President Saddam Husayn.

The Executive Council president emphasized that the United States and its allies will never be more concerned about our Kurdish people than the Iraqi leadership.

Foreign Minister Calls For Return of Prisoners

JN2605083091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0807 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has stressed that the continued holding of Iraqi prisoners by Iran and the states of the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression, conflicts with the Third Geneva Convention, which stipulates the return of prisoners immediately after the cessation of war activities.

During a meeting today with De Courten, director of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] operations, the foreign minister urged him to take action to return the prisoners to their country, Iraq.

The two sides discussed the ICRC role in the field of relief aid to Iraq.

Memos to UN Accuse U.S. of Overflights

Memo on 23-24 May Activity

JN2605110291 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1038 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft have continued to violate Iraqi airspace, thus violating the cease-fire resolution issued by the UN Security Council.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general today, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that the U.S. air activity in Iraq's airspace on 22-23 May totalled 46 sorties in several two-plane formations and four single sorties. He noted that the planes, flying at medium and low altitudes at a speed of 600 to 850 km per hour, flew mainly over Mosul, Dahuk, and Tall 'Afar, engaging in reconnaissance and provocation.

Memo on 24-25 May 'Violations'

JN2605200391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1944 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] New York, 26 May (INA)—Iraq has protested further violations of Iraqi airspace by U.S. aircraft.

In a memorandum sent to UN Secretary General Perez De Cuellar, Iraq's permanent representative noted that on 24-25 May, the Americans carried out six sorties originating from Turkey.

The aircraft, flying at 700-850 km per hour at an altitude of between five and six km, mainly flew over areas in Irbil and Rawandoz, engaging in reconnaissance and provocation.

Memo on 26-27 May Sorties

JN2805184991 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft have continued to violate Iraqi airspace, engaging in reconnaissance and provocation. Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said in a memorandum to the UN secretary general that on 26-27 May, U.S. planes originating from Turkish airspace carried out nine sorties in four double-plane formations and one single plane sortie. He added that the U.S. planes flew at an altitude of 4 km and a speed of 700-800 km per hour. They mainly flew over Irbil, Dahuk, Mosul, and al-Qayyyarah.

Further on Visit of Turkey's Ecevit

Received by Saddam

JN2505095791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—This morning, President Saddam Husayn received Bulent Ecevit, former prime minister of Turkey and leader of the Democratic Left Party, accompanied by Derya Sazak, news director at the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Regional Command Foreign Relations Office.

Ecevit on Middle East Issues

JN2605093891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0804 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA)—Bulent Ecevit, [former] prime minister of Turkey, has said that the Turkish people are seriously following up political developments in the region, and that they are very concerned over the American and Western interference in northern Iraq.

Ecevit, who is also leader of the Democratic Left Party, stressed that the Turkish people are now convinced that the American and Western interference, particularly in northern Iraq, is aimed at igniting local problems, whose effects are not confined to Iraq, but to all the peoples of the region in general.

In a dialogue with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Ecevit shed light on the fact that the West, since 1920, has begun to play the Kurdish card, not out of love for the Kurds or seriousness to resolve their problems, but to benefit from this card and to use it to involve the region's states in internal problems that would obstruct their progress.

Bulent Ecevit warned that the Middle East is now exposed to a modern imperialist invasion led by the United States under the slogan of the new world order.

He stressed that the exposure of the dimensions of this scheme necessitates that the region's states assume their responsibilities of confronting and tackling their international problems within the national framework.

He said that the concern of the opposition parties in Turkey is growing over the American presence in the region after the justifications, on which the resolution of massing foreign forces in the region was based, have been eliminated.

Death Sentences Against Envoys Reported

JN2805184691 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Jawad Hashim, former Iraqi planning minister [and former director of the Arab Monetary Fund], has said that death sentences have been passed against him and two Iraqi diplomats: Muhammad al-Mashshat, former Iraqi ambassador to the United States who fled to Canada, and 'Afif al-Rawi, former Iraqi ambassador to Australia, because they fled the government.

Hashim said the death sentences were handed down last week following a secret meeting of the Iraqi regime's [Revolution] Command Council. It is worth mentioning that Hashim obtained Canadian citizenship some time ago and was subjected to a public chase last week. He is under the protection of British police.

Envoy to Bonn Reported Executed

LD2605080191 Hamburg DPA in German 0457 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Munich (DPA)—Iraqi Ambassador to Bonn 'Abd al- Jabbar 'Umar Ghani is said to have been executed in Baghdad at the beginning of May as a "traitor," according to a report in the magazine BUNTE. Head of state Saddam Husayn personally gave the order for the execution of his former confidant, the Munich-based magazine reported in a pre-release, quoting Iraqi resistance sources. The diplomat had been given leave as ambassador to Bonn, and organized the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In November he engineered the trip by Willy Brandt, the honorary chairman of the Social Democratic Party, to Baghdad to free hostages.

According to Iraqi resistance sources, Ghani fell from grace when it became known that he had been bribed by the Kuwaiti side. The diplomat, who had been the ambassador to Kuwait for seven years before his transfer to Bonn, is said to have been involved in all the Kuwaiti ruling family's dealings with Baghdad.

Reports Denied

LD2705091591 Hamburg DPA in German 0845 GMT 27 May 91

[Excerpt] Bonn (DPA)—Reports about the execution of the Iraqi ambassador to Bonn, 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Umar Ghani, were rejected on Monday. On Monday the Cologne-based paper EXPRESS quoted the ambassador, following a telephone conversation, thusly: "I am well. I was travelling from Amman to Baghdad when I heard the news." The general secretary of the German-Arab Society, Harald Bock, also confirmed to DPA that he had talked on the telephone with the ambassador in the Jordanian capital Amman only last week. [passage omitted]

Negotiations With Barzani Reportedly Continue

JN2705102291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1103 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] An official Iraqi source has denied that the delegation of Kurdish parties under Mas'ud Barzani has left Baghdad. The source said that the negotiations between the the delegation and the Iraqi Government continue on the details of the autonomy rule agreement.

Iraqi sources said yesterday that the Kurdish delegation left Baghdad for an unknown destination.

Presidential Decree Appoints New Oil Minister

JN2705161691 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1604 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] A presidential decree has been issued appointing Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq Hammadi al-Hithi as oil minister. Following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Presidential Decree No. 248.

Based on the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq Hammadi al-Hithi, minister of state for oil affairs, shall be appointed oil minister. The ministers shall implement this decree.

Issued in Baghdad on 13 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 27 May 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Saddam Said To Order 'Liquidating' 'Elements'

NC2605202891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1936 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] In an attempt to defray the wrath of the rebellious people, the tyrant Saddam has formed a committee under his personal supervision, to liquidate party and government elements and those holding senior posts in the Army he does not trust. He instructed the committee to prepare a list of people he does not like for the purpose of liquidating them.

The Iraqi Army is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the regime's repressive practices. A number of Army members are joining the people's ranks.

Former Officials Said Condemned to Death

NC2805163591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The vanquished tyrant Saddam Husayn has issued an order for the execution of former Planning Minister Jamal Hashim, former Ambassador in Washington Muhammad al-Mashshat, and former Ambassador to Australia 'Afif al-Rawi.

Jamal Hashim told the Canadian press that the so-called Revolution Command Council led by tyrant Saddam Husayn has condemned them to death on charges of high treason. The three officials abandoned the tyrant's regime after the Gulf war.

Vice President Ramadan Speaks on Kuwait

NC2805172591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Taha al-Jazrawi [Taha Yasin Ramadan], vice president of the defeated tyrant, has stressed that Kuwait is still Iraqi. He said this in a statement to the newspaper [AL-SHA'B] of the Egyptian Labor Party, which supports the tyrant.

The regime of the tyrant has approved all UN resolutions. Some of these resolutions stipulate that the regime agree to rescind the decision to annex Kuwait as the 19th Iraqi governorate. The regime's acceptance of these resolutions led to the cease-fire.

The tyrant's vice president said in the interview, which the newspaper said took place in Sanaa, that the popular uprising in Iraq was the result of an agreement between Iran and the international coalition forces. The popular uprising spread throughout Iraq in response to the crimes that the regime of the defeated tyrant committed over 20 years. These crimes peaked with Saddam's insistence on fighting the world and exposing Iraq to total destruction merely to satisfy his conceit and his claim that he stood up to the world. Our people have never ceased to resist the tyranny of the dictatorial regime, despite the terrorism the tyrant practices against our people.

Pazner on Reported Bush Request on Ethiopians

TA2505204991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 may 91

[Text] Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, this evening denied a report that President Bush asked Prime Minister Shamir that Israel not settle the new Ethiopian immigrants in settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Pazner told our correspondent Arye Golan that this issue did not arise at all in the talk between President Bush and Prime Minister Shamir.

Levi Reacts to Baker's Remarks to Congress

Asks Restrained Response

TA2605105791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 26 May 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good day, Mr. Foreign Minister.

[Levi] And a good day to you too.

[Golan] We just reported that during today's cabinet session you called on your colleagues not to start an anti-American chorus following Secretary of State Baker's remarks before the Congress and the Senate that the settlements constitute the greatest obstacle to the political process. Have you already sensed the beginning of such a chorus in Israel?

[Levi] I am looking with an eye to the future. The testimony given by the secretary of state to the Congress and Senate subcommittees did not comprise a reference to the settlements. It did incorporate all the details that were accumulated during his tour of the Middle East. I must say that the testimony was an accurate appraisal of what we already know of the difficulties and the opportunities. However, when responding to a question, I think that the secretary of state tripped up and made a regrettable statement, which was interpreted in such a way that the settlements were named as the factor holding up the process or causing difficulties. That is not the case and he knows that. True, Israel and the United States disagree on this issue. We think it is our right and the United States disagrees. However, there is a difference between disagreeing on something and portraying it as the major obstacle or impediment to progress in the process, and I think that doing this is a serious mistake that places the onus for blocking the process on Israel and that is not the case. Baker was here, we held good talks, he said—and you all heard him say it himself at the news conference at the airport together with me—that the scope of agreements between Israel and the United States was much greater than the disagreements. We said that the remaining disagreements would not be a barrier to continued progress. The burden of proof, therefore, rests with the Arab states. They have to come out with some sort of act, declaration, or agreement with the secretary of state and thus prove that their desire for peace equals ours. I advised my colleagues not to be guided by anger or bitterness. We still face a difficult time. Israel has gone a long way to help the secretary of state in his mission because we desire peace. Acting out of anger, even if it is justified in itself, will only lead to undesirable tensions; and I intend to continue to not only insist on the justness of our cause but also to convince others, because the importance of the things we have already achieved is something that must not be harmed for any reason.

[Golan] Minister Levi, do you also advise keeping a low profile over the fact that the United States supported the decision condemning Israel for deporting the four Palestinians?

[Levi] No. It must be understood that when I talk about the need for us to trust in ourselves and maintain our calm I am not, God forbid, suggesting that we abandon our beliefs or rights. No way. We have stood on our right in this matter in the past and we shall continue to do so in the future; however, sometimes one must not give vent to anger, even if it is justified, so as not to give the enemies of peace a reason to rejoice. We must not supply an alibi for those who want to ground the relations between Israel and the United States. Those who hoped to place the ball in the Israeli court in order to blame us must not be allowed to succeed. Therefore, restraint, sobriety, and action are called for, and that is what we are doing. I am glad that on this matter, the government is well aware of what is at stake, and we shall act as one unit regarding the United Nations. Well, this is what I would call another anti-Israeli resolution, which ignores the root and address of the terror that is the real reason for the steps we take. We do not want to deport anyone—this is not what we are all about; however, when we are dealing with inciters who are behind activities with the aim of preventing law and order from being achieved and which endanger human lives, we must and indeed do take steps on various levels to limit and if possible eliminate these dangers. I was in Brussels during my last meetings with EC officials, and I witnessed the demonstrations by the Maghreb minority in Belgium. I saw how the security forces there behaved. When I asked a colleague in the Belgian Government what was the meaning of these harsh policies—because I saw that children had also been hurt—he said: My dear sir, security knows no compromises. Need I say more?

[Golan] Thank you, Mr. Foreign Minister.

Cautions for Discretion in Comments

TA2605104191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 26 May 91

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] The cabinet received a very, very full report this morning on the rescue operation, particularly from Foreign Minister David Levi. Many ministers praised all those who were involved, from the Air Force to Uri

Lubrani, the prime minister's emissary, and of course, the Foreign Ministry people—the ambassador and the other staff there, and for their discretion and for the way they handled the whole operation. The absorption minister, Yitzhaq Peretz, sent a note to the foreign minister praising him on this.

The minister without portfolio, Rehav'am Ze'evi, said that Operation Solomon was a classic example of voluntary transfer, transfer by will.

David Levi, the foreign minister, made a very, very full report also on the statements made by the secretary of state, James Baker, to various bodies of Congress criticizing Israel, saying that there is no greater obstacle to the peace efforts than the settlements in the territories. Levi conceded that it is very, very hard from Israel's point of view, these things are very serious, and of course, he disagrees with them, but he cautioned the other ministers against excessive attacks on the United States in the light of these statements. He said: We must not allow it to become a chorus of attacks. He said we have to think about tomorrow and not just about today.

Comments on Progress in Peace Process

TA2705112991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said today that the peace process has not become stuck and that he believes that Baker will return to the region. Levi said that the attack on the settlements was a mistake and reiterated his position that they would not be a precondition to negotiations. Our correspondent Eyal Lavi reports:

Foreign Minister David Levi addressed Jewish parliamentarians from around the world within the framework of the Zionist Forum. After a speech which dealt with aliyah, making the desert bloom, and other rosy forecasts, Levi was forced to deal with more pointed questions by the foreign politicians. To a French woman parliamentarian, he said that he is traveling to Luxembourg on 5 June to meet with EC representatives, as a continuation of his previous meetings. They will discuss possible EC participation in a peace conference and what kind of status it would have. Levi also said he does not believe the peace process has ceased. Somebody who has invested so much time and effort will not give up so quickly, Levi said, referring to his U.S. counterpart, Baker.

[Begin Levi recording] I believe the process has not become stuck. The burden of proof is on the Arab states. They have to provide Baker with answers, and I hope there will be answers soon, and that we will be able to continue the work. [end recording]

On Baker's sharp attack on the settlements, Levi said that it was an expression of bitterness and that he is sure that it was not intended to present Israel as the obstacle to peace.

[Begin Levi recording] I believe that he made a grave mistake because while there is a dispute on the settlement issue between us and the United States—our enemies will only be happy about it—I, at least, expect him to make a move which will amend that mistake; we continue to make progress on the extensive work we have already done together so that the peace process succeeds. [end recording]

Levi believes that the U.S. President's backing of Baker will not lead to greater pressure on Israel. The foreign minister also reiterated his position that the settlements are up for negotiation, but could under no circumstances act as a precondition. Our agreement to such a precondition would be a capitulation, Levi said.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 27 May says "Foreign Minister David Levi charges that Syria is trying to force Jordan to join the peace process according to conditions set by Damascus and making threatening statements against Israel. Speaking to a group of Jewish parliamentarians from abroad, Levi expressed the hope that Syria would abandon this path and opt for peace.

["On another issue, Levi said that Israel was committed not to direct immigrants to the territories, and was acting accordingly. At the same time, as a democratic country, it could not and would not bar any Jew from settling in these areas, if he so wished."]

Criticizes Baker on Settlements Comments

TA2805174491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi is to meet next week with the leading foreign ministers of the EC. Levi told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today that the Europeans are willing to consider integrating Israel fully into the community, short of being a member, before the 1992 union. This would be in exchange for a European role in the peace process. David Ze'ev reports:

Operation Solomon has taken center stage, and Foreign Minister Levi said today that Israel is working to get those left behind out of Ethiopia. But, the foreign minister also declared before members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee—several skeptics among them—that the peace process is alive, and on all fronts. The action now, he said, is out of the spotlight, as the Americans are waiting for answers from a couple of countries, Syria among them. He said there are positive indications from these behind-the- scenes contacts, but the foreign minister did not elaborate.

He called Secretary of State Baker's comments on the settlements last week on Capitol Hill pitiful. Baker had said there is no greater obstacle to peace; Levi said Baker's mistake was to put a long-standing disagreement between Jerusalem and Washington back in the headlines. But, he said, the American secretary is more

optimistic about the peace process and blames Israel less than the statements would indicate.

The foreign minister said he does not minimize the decision of the Gulf states to send an observer to a regional gathering. Such a forum could be reconvened, he said, with Israel's consent. He said the reports of six-month gaps were incorrect, and the purpose of the reconvening would be only to update the members of the forum, not to report to the conference. Such are the subtleties of the current diplomacy.

Levi also said he does not minimize the role of the Europeans in the peace process. The European offer for full integration, short of actual membership, would be a major development, because half of Israel's imports are with Europe, as well as a third of this country's exports.

The foreign minister said another meeting with his Soviet counterpart, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, is being arranged, after Bessmertnykh had a message relayed to Levi Sunday saying he would like to meet again. Levi said the Soviet foreign minister tried all he could to find the common ground between Moscow and Jerusalem, when the two men met a few weeks ago.

Settlement of Ethiopians in Absorption Centers

TA2605104791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz has made it clear that Israel has no intention of settling Ethiopian immigrants in the territories. He was asked to comment on reports that U.S. officials had approached Israel not to settle the new arrivals beyond the Green Line.

[Begin Dinitz recording] We'll answer it very plainly since we are in charge, the Jewish Agency. Unlike with the Russians, who go to direct absorption, with the Ethiopian Jews we are taking care of them in absorption centers for the first year, and therefore they are all going to be housed in our 100 absorption centers, 50 new ones and 50 old ones that we have, and none of them are in the territories. So that should not be any problem. [end recording]

Indirect Contact With Ethiopian Rebels Viewed

TA2605064191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 May 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] Throughout the long and exhausting negotiations with the Ethiopian authorities, Israel had refused to supply weapons to the regime of President Mengistu Haile-Mariam. Today, sources in Israel say, it is clear that this decision will play a crucial role in maintaining relations with Ethiopia. The supply of arms would have closed the lid on any chances for future contacts with the rebels. Approximately 2,000 Jews remain in Ethiopia, and Foreign Minister Levi already declared yesterday that Israel would not rest until it had brought all of them over. Sources in Jerusalem explained that the repatriating of the rest of the Ethiopian Jews was not an impossible task. It is true that Israel has no direct links with the rebels, but in the preparatory negotiations for Operation Solomon, the United States had established contact with them. Sources in Jerusalem expressed the hope that this indirect channel of communication with the rebels could help bring about the immigration of the Jews remaining in Ethiopia. Steps in this direction will begin when the situation in Ethiopia clarifies, and after the results of the London talks are known. If some sort of compromise is reached in London, calling for a sharing of power in the country, Israel could take action to rescue the Jews from the areas in which fighting is now taking place.

As for the operation itself, Prime Minister Shamir will today brief the cabinet on the succession of developments that led to Operation Solomon and facilitated its total success. [passage omitted]

Relations With New Ethiopian Regime Viewed

TA2805181691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 28 May 91

[Excerpt] Israel is interested in cordial relations with the regime that will emerge in Ethiopia and is willing to cooperate with it in development projects. This was stated by the assistant director of the Foreign Ministry's Africa Division, Hayim Divon. In an interview with Jack Katzenell, Divon said Israel is concerned for the safety of the Jews remaining in Ethiopia and hopes that normal conditions will soon be restored there.

Our reporter asked Divon if the various rebel groups regard Israel as an enemy and a supporter of the Mengistu regime.

[Begin recording] [Divon] Well, we used to be perceived this way, but I think that during the last year, the rebels realized that despite all the rumors, speculations, and reports, Israel did not supply any arms to the Mengistu regime. I think it was also made clear by the Americans to the rebels themselves. So, therefore, I don't think there is any reason for the opposition to regard Israel as an enemy.

[Katzenell] But does Israel have any relations with them?

[Divon] Well, so far we did not have the opportunity, but we are looking forward to establish normal, and friendly, and cordial diplomatic relations with the regime to be established very soon. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rumor of Asylum to Mengistu Group Denied

TA2805185691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Kassa Kabedde, former Ethiopian President Mengistu's adviser, who was involved in the emigration of Jews to Israel, came to Israel along with Ethiopian Jews airlifted in Operation Solomon. Another Ethiopian,

who was directly involved in the operation, is believed to have arrived with him. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin.

Jerusalem sources denied the rumor that Israel has extended asylum to a group of former officials of the Ethiopian regime. It was stated that an agreement, which had been attained with the rebels through the Americans, stipulates that Israel is to do nothing for the Addis Ababa regime. Asylum, therefore, was extended only to individuals who had been active on the Jewish issue.

Levi Receives Bessmertnykh Message

TA2605162591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] This afternoon Foreign Minister David Levi received an oral message from his Soviet counterpart, Bessmertnykh, through the USSR's consul general in Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the message said that Bessmertnykh's visit to Israel has strengthened his impression that an opportunity for peace has been created, and that all the sides understand the dangers entailed in missing that opportunity. Bessmertnykh conveyed to Levi that he would be glad to meet his Israeli counterpart again.

Minister Levi told the consul that he would like to use this opportunity to stress Israel's concern over the statements and threats made by Syria. We want it to be clear to Syria that Israel expects it to curb extreme elements, stop threats, and take steps in the direction of peace, he said.

Arens Calls For International Arms Conference

TA2605193091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that an international conference must convene soon, to be attended by suppliers of arms to the Middle East and their customers, to discuss cuts of arms supplies to the region. According to him, there is a fear that a new war could break out if one tyrant or another comes to feel that he has enough weapons to win. Minister Arens made the remarks at an international seminar at Haifa University dealing with the Ba'th regime in Iraq.

Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that the defense minister noted that the large army at the disposal of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is dangerous because Syria's ability is no different than that which Saddam Husayn had.

The defense minister also added that a large-scale economic solution must be found for the problem of refugees throughout the region. In the absence of such an economic solution, the Palestinian problem will not be solved.

Hizballah Proposal on Prisoner Exchange Welcomed

TA2405144391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] Israel welcomes Hizballah leader 'Abbas al-Musawi's declaration that his organization will be prepared to exchange the Israeli POW's it holds for POW's held by Israel. Israel views the declaration as a positive move that improves the atmosphere and may prepare the ground for negotiations.

The defense minister's media adviser has called on 'Abbas al- Musawi to eliminate the question marks once and for all and to clarify which Israeli POW's Hizballah is holding and what condition they are in. He added that when Israel sees signs of life from its POW's it will be prepared to negotiate the release of the Lebanese it is holding, including Shaykh 'Ubayd.

Arens Notes Room for Optimism

TA2705042591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 May 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The defense minister also said there is room for a certain amount of optimism regarding the fate of Israeli prisoners in Lebanon. He said that this is in light of recent reports Israel has received from those in contact with the prisoners and the willingness of their captors to reach an agreement with Israel on a prisoner exchange. [sentence as heard]

Hizballah Unwilling To Negotiate

TA2805175391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 28 May 91

[Report by Ya'aqov Rosenberg]

[Excerpts] Uri Lubrani poured cold water on the recent statements by Hizballah leader, Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, that his organization is willing to trade Israeli prisoners of war for Shiites and Palestinians being held by Israel.

Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, who has just returned from Ethiopia, where he won the release of more than 14,000 Jews, says Hizballah has not signalled any willingness to negotiate with Israel, even through third parties. At a news conference in Jerusalem, Lubrani said he believed the recent Hizballah statements were inspired by Iran, which, he says, wants to show it can deliver the Western hostages if it receives benefits from the West. [passage omitted]

Lubrani dismissed Shaykh al-Musawi's claim that Hizballah is holding only two of the seven Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. The Israeli official said Hizballah has not provided any credible information about the prisoners of war. Lubrani said Israel would do all it can to win the release of the 13 Western hostages being held in Lebanon, as long as they include the Israeli prisoners. This means a government agreement to free all of the Shiites

and Palestinians captured in Lebanon, but not those Palestinians in the territories now detained in Israeli prisons.

Shamir's Office Criticizes UN Condemnation

TA2605044191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office has criticized the UN decision to condemn Israel for deporting the four Palestinians.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan was told that the United Nations is continuing to adopt a biased position, while at the same time aspiring for an active role in the political process. No condemnations or reservations were expressed this week by the United Nations when Syria swallowed up Lebanon, which was an independent country; however, when Israel, out of concern for its security, deports four violent inciters, the international organization rushes to condemn it.

Sources on Syrian Attitude Toward Israel

TA2805102691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Israeli sources say that Syria is not interested in provoking Israel from Lebanese territory; its immediate interest lies in reducing terrorist activity from Lebanon, especially by organizations under its influence. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe quotes the sources as saying that Syria does not intend to violate the agreements and understandings with Israel that existed prior to its treaty with Lebanon.

Foreign Ministry Official Goes to Belgrade

TA2805044191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Yosef Govrin, Foreign Ministry assistant director general, will arrive in Belgrade today to discuss the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and Yugoslavia.

The official Yugoslav TANJUG Agency, however, reports that relations will not be renewed during the visit because Belgrade links such a move to Israel's agreeing to the Baker initiative.

Defense Ministry Views Gaza Municipal Elections

TA2805172191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Ministry of Defense is expected to act to hold municipal elections in Gaza if a special committee is not appointed to run the municipality's affairs. Citing a security source, our correspondent Dani Levi adds that the Ministry of Defense has given permission for businessmen to open an investment bank in Gaza.

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives, Reviews Syria Talks

JN2805182691 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has arrived in Amman from Damascus. He will meet with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri tomorrow.

In a statement to Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our correspondent for political affairs, Qaddumi stressed that his talks with Syrian officials were constructive and successful.

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Mr. Faruq, what was the nature and outcome of the talks held between the Syrian Government and the PLO?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian delegation held comprehensive talks with the Syrian brothers. The door of Damascus was wide open for the PLO. There was a clear understanding on all the political points during the talks. We discussed in particular the current political efforts in the region in a brotherly spirit and objective manner. We reached complete agreement on all these issues.

[Dhiyab] Mr. Faruq, did you discuss the presence of Palestinian forces in Lebanon, particularly following the signature of the treaty between Syria and Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] This is an issue that concerns the Lebanese Government. However, the Syrian brothers can help in this regard. We held talks in Cairo with his eminence the Lebanese foreign minister, and we are following this issue with the Lebanese brothers.

[Dhiyab] Has anything been achieved with regard to the meeting of the five countries the PLO has called for?

[Qaddumi] Syria's response was swift in order to establish coordination between the Arab parties, especially regarding the confrontation states: Syria, Palestine, Jordan, and Cairo. We are now holding more contacts to consolidate these efforts and unify the Arab position on the work toward establishing peace. We, however, must say that the intransigent Israeli position hampers all these international endeavors.

[Dhiyab] With regard to Palestinian representation and the proposed options, was this issue discussed with the Syrians?

[Qaddumi] Before discussing the issue of the Palestinian delegation, we have repeatedly said that this is an Arab issue and that there is no problem between the Arab parties with regard to the Palestinian delegation. All parties recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. However, we are primarily concerned with the important issues—namely, guaranteeing Israel's complete withdrawal from all Arab and Palestinian territories, discussing the issue of Jerusalem, and removing the settlements. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Official on Kuwaiti Trials

JN2305135191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23-24 May 91 p 3

[By Sirin Halasah, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan is closely monitoring the trials of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates allegedly accused of collaborating with the Iraqis, despite the fact that Jordan has no official representation in the emirate, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Mr. Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, said that Jordan had informed the Kuwaiti government of its concern for the well-being of its citizens in Kuwait, and that "it is closely monitoring the current situation regarding the trials" of its citizens. "They know of our demand for the protection of our citizens in Kuwait," Mr. al-Bilbaysi said. "There is nothing else we can do at the moment," he added.

Earlier in March, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri requested the approval of the Kuwaiti government to send a Jordanian mission to Kuwait in a bid to ensure the safety of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates there. The request was made by the Foreign Ministry following persisting reports which spoke of the mistreatment of the expatriates.

"Jordan could spare no efforts in pursuit of defending the rights of the Jordanian and Palestinian communities (in Kuwait)," Mr. al- Masri said at the time.

But judging by Mr. al-Bilbaysi's statement Wednesday, it seems that the Foreign Ministry's request to send a mission to Kuwait has not been granted.

Mr. al-Bilbaysi said that it was by "coincidence that the Foreign Ministry found out the names of 15 "Jordanian" journalists who are currently on trial in the emirate. They are charged with having worked on al-Nida' newspaper, the only newspaper allowed to operate in Kuwait during Iraq's seven-months occupation of the emirate, and for criticising the Royal family while working there. "We don't even have proof that they are Jordanian, or the number of their passports if they are," Mr. al-Bilbaysi told the Jordan Times. [passage omitted]

Saudis Deny Palestinian Pilgrims Jordan Transit

JN2905073791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 May 91 pp 1, 24

[Excerpt] Amman—Saudi Arabia has rejected transportation of through Jordan of pilgrims from Palestine occupied in 1948.

Sources at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said the Saudi authorities instructed the Saudi Embassy in Amman not to issue any visa to people wanting to perform the hajj who come from Palestine occupied in 1948. The Saudi authorities asked that these pilgrims go through Egypt.

The sources said that intensive contacts are currently under way between the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs and the Saudi authorities, through the Amman Embassy, to solve this problem and obtain the approval of the concerned Saudi authorities to transport these pilgrims through Jordan. [passage omitted]

King Husayn, Mubarak Hold Telephone Conversation

JN2305182091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 May 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Informed diplomatic sources have said that Jordan's King Husayn discussed with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, during their telephone contact yesterday, the recent efforts to revive the peace process in the region and the dimensions of the Israeli threats to some neighboring Arab countries. The sources told our radio that during their meeting the day before yesterday, the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo handed Dr. Usmah al-Baz a message from the Jordanian monarch to President Mubarak. According to the sources, the Jordanian monarch's message was a reply to the one President Mubarak sent to King Husayn.

In his message, the Jordanian monarch reaffirmed Jordan's appreciation of the importance of political coordination with the Egyptian leadership, noting the importance of continuing political dialogue among Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO, because they are the parties directly involved in resolving the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. King Husayn said that the principles of this dialogue should be based on the international peace conference and the participation of the United Nations and the European states in this conference. King Husayn expressed Jordan's appreciation for the Egyptian position to bypass procedural issues to convene the conference. However, he noted that some of these issues might be related to some objective issues that could be discussed. He also noted the dimensions of the Israeli scheme to fragment the Arab position in this regard.

In his response to what President Mubarak proposed in his previous letter on the need to accept the invitation to convene the peace conference under the auspices of the two superpowers, King Husayn noted the need for the invitation to include a view on the proposed agenda and the points on which Israel agrees to embark on the peace steps in addition to the other points to which it objects. He said that these positions should be clear before agreeing to accept the invitation. [passage omitted]

King Receives Former Turkish Premier Ecevit

JN2705175191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Turkey's former Prime Minister Mr. Bulent Ecevit at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. They reviewed regional issues in light of current developments and spoke about Arab-Turkish relations with a special emphasis on Jordanian-Turkish ties.

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Amman en Route Home

JN2305171891 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has arrived in Amman en route home after representing Iraq at the celebrations of the Republic of Yemen on the occasion of the first anniversary of Yemeni unity. He was received at the airport by Mudar Badran, prime minister; Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; and Nuri al-Wayyis, Iraq's ambassador in Amman.

Foreign Minister al-Masri on Falashas Emigration

JN2705112991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 May 91 p 1

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the transfer of Ethiopian Falashas to Israel is a result of international double standards.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he added that a double standard policy is still characteristic of the international arena. Transferring the Falashas to Israel is new evidence, not the first and not the last, of the world's double standard policy.

Al-Masri continued: The recent operation is also evidence of the Israeli determination to continue Jewish emigration from wherever they are to Israel.

He said that carrying out the operation with this speed is designed to present it in a humane light to Western public opinion, and is in reality a flagrant violation of Arab rights.

He said that if the Ethiopian Jew who has been living in Ethiopia for thousands of years has the right to emigrate to Israel and abandon his identity on the basis of a political decision, then what about the Palestinian who has been living on his land for thousands of years but is still considered by the Israelis and the Jews as living on his land on a temporary basis?

PLO's Milhim on Impact of Jewish Emigration

JN2805140791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 May 91 p 19

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Excerpts] Amman—The UN fact-finding mission which is currently visiting Jordan to study the Palestinian people's conditions yesterday heard the testimony of PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim in his capacity as head of the PLO's Occupied

Homeland Affairs Department, which has a direct and daily link with the Palestinians residing in occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting with the UN mission, Milhim told AL-DUSTUR that the Jewish airlift from the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and various countries in the world does not threaten Palestine alone—because Palestine is already occupied—but the security and safety of neighboring Arab states as well. Israel, he said, wants to expand at the expense of these states to prepare for achieving the Jewish dream to establish greater Israel, as planned by Shamir, Sharon, and the rest of the racist Zionist gang.

He said: Regrettably, the intensive Jewish emigration to Palestine and the intense settlement activities in the occupied territories are taking place at the time when there is a state of Arab collapse—which is rewarding Israel for its intransigence and rejection of peace and principles of legitimacy by calling for normalizing relations with the Zionist entity and ending the [Arab] boycott.

Milhim said that confronting emigration and settlement in Palestine should not be done through words, but by making every Jewish emigrant to Palestine—regardless of where he emigrated from—realize that the land of Palestine will burn his feet. This is what our people's glorious intifadah is doing every day, he added. The Arab brothers, he said, are abandoning the intifadah and stopping financial aid, which is now pouring into the banks of the United States and its allies that support Israel and providing it with all the tools of oppression and terrorism that are being used against our Arab Muslim people in Palestine.

Milhim warned against the expansionist Israeli objectives which aim to absorb the immigrants and provide them with the appropriate living conditions—to be done at the expense of Arab territories and the economic and financial control of the Arab and Islamic states—because Israel's dream is not only limited to geography, but extends to economy and finance.

U.S. Peace Plan, Baker's Remarks Welcomed

JN2405095891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 May 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Palestine Question in King Husayn's Speech"]

[Text] In his important political speech at the graduation of a group of Royal War College students, His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, explained Jordan's views on the current Middle East situation in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the emergence of intensive international diplomatic activity to resolve the region's conflict and solve the Palestine question from all its aspects.

King Husayn explained the reasons that prompted Jordan to welcome the U.S. plan announced by President George Bush on 6 March. Foremost among those reasons was the fact that the United States led the alliance under the umbrella of world legitimacy during the Gulf crisis, which gives credibility to this U.S. plan.

The four principles in the plan, including a land-for-peace barter, was a sound approach to a settlement based on world legitimacy, especially since the world showed great eagerness to implement this legitimacy to end the Gulf crisis while it failed to show similar eagerness toward the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Jordan, therefore, found that the U.S. plan meets the collective Arab demand of solving the Palestine question in accordance with world legitimacy, as was the case with the Gulf crisis. Jordan also viewed U.S. efforts to convene a peace conference on the region's crisis as activation of the principles of the plan, which call for a land-for-peace exchange and acknowledge the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Today, we find in the statements of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in which he blames Israel for the faltering peace efforts, what prompts us to give even more support President Bush's plan. This is so especially since we hear unprecedented U.S. language against Jewish settlements in occupied territories, and we feel U.S. determination to continue peace efforts despite all Israel's negative responses and increasing obstacles to the proposed peace conference.

If Baker's latest statements about Jewish settlements represent a reassessment of the U.S. position or signify a change in U.S. dealing with the intransigent Israeli position, we can say that our welcome of the U.S. plan was in order, and that the plan's principles and the efforts to activate it reflected sufficient U.S. desire to seize the available peace opportunity after the Gulf crisis.

On the other hand, if Baker's resounding remarks about Israel's obstacles to peace signal the beginning of an organized U.S. retreat from President Bush's plan, then the alternative will be a continuation of the fait accompli, which will ultimately cause further tension and enhance the likelihood of another war in the region.

When it welcomed the U.S. plan, Jordan hoped that the United States had drawn enough lessons from the Gulf crisis to reassess its Middle East policy and change its appeasement of Israel's intransigence. Such reassessment would definitely lead to direct U.S. pressure on Israel if the United States really wanted not to miss the chance for a historical just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

With James Baker considering Jewish settlements to be the major obstacle to peace and a threat to the very foundations of the U.S. plan, we have greater hopes of a firmer U.S. policy against Israel's intransigent position. Were we not obsessed by caution that the United States will, as

usual, bend to Zionist pressure, we would say that Washington has made the first step toward exerting the necessary diplomatic pressure to break Israel's intransigence.

We still remember and remind others of His Majesty's words that the fait accompli Israel is seeking to prolong is not stagnant but continuously changing for the worse. We only have to draw a diagram of the missed peace opportunities to see that facts on the ground are today more painful than those that existed at every missed peace opportunity in the past.

Information Minister on New Law, Free Press

JN2905071891 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Amman, 28 May (PETRA)—Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din has said that under the present democratic changes in Jordan and its institutions, it is now unacceptable to discuss the concept of Jordan's media policy because it is founded on basic principles and a general framework that defines the work and role of the Jordanian official and unofficial media. He said that these basic principles emanate from the very existence of Jordan as a state, the history of its people, and the role of its institutions, which enjoy national consensus.

In this regard, the minister called on the official media to practice its natural role and exploit the freedom given by this country's democracy, thus following the steps of the local press which enjoys full freedom. He pointed out that the current press and publication law is frozen, from the practical point of view, and that work is under way to issue a new law inspired by the national charter based on the Jordanian Constitution.

In a speech he delivered today at the opening session of the seminar organized by the Radio and Television Corporation's Information Training Center, the minister said that based on the new law, a higher council for journalism will be formed. This council will determine the extent of coverage to be given to various activities, including political, parliamentary, party, and other activities, in a manner which fully and objectively reflects the citizens' concerns and problems and allows for presenting opinion and counter opinion in the service of national interest.

'Izz-al-Din also reviewed the most important points on which the new law is based, foremost being the freedom of expression and opinion, enabling the journalist to have access to news sources, away from distortion, propaganda, and official and unofficial intervention.

The minister noted that the law guarantees protection to journalists for not revealing the sources of his information. It also clearly defines his duties, tasks, and ethics, enabling him to carry out his tasks in the best possible manner.

The minister later discussed several administrative issues with those working in the news field at the Radio and Television Corporation and who are participating in the seminar.

The seminar, which will last three days, will discuss a number of important issues in the field of news including news writing, news sources, the responsibility of the editor, and utilizing modern technology in presenting newscasts and the various news programs.

Among those who will deliver speeches at the seminar in addition to the minister are the director general of the Radio and Television Corporation, the directors of the radio and television stations, and a number of Jordanian academics and media men.

U.S. Blamed for Delay in Hostage Release

NC2905101591 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 27 May 91 p 5

[Text] A well-informed source has affirmed that the delay in the release of the foreign hostages in Lebanon does not have anything to do with negotiations seeking their release as part of an exchange of Lebanese and Palestinians held in Israeli prisons for Israelis held in Lebanon and the bodies of Israelis killed there.

The delay is instead due to U.S. violation of an agreement with Iran which provided for the hostages' release in exchange for the unfreezing of Iranian financial assets worth $13 billion.

Under the agreement, Washington was to have released $650 million in exchange for the first American hostage. The U.S. Administration, however, preferred to delay the hostages' release for a few months, to ensure that the unfreezing of the $13 billion would not adversely affect the U.S. economy.

The source said that the issue is currently deadlocked, awaiting action on Washington's part to implement the signed agreement.

Israeli Aircraft Reported Over South, Sidon

NC2905073191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been flying at low altitude over the south and Sidon since 0930 today.

Reaction to Accord Concluded With Syria

Fadlallah Endorses Accord

LD2505115391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Lebanon's distinguished spiritual leader, said the accord signed between Syria and Lebanon allows Lebanon to return to the Islamic and Arab atmosphere and its natural habitat in the region.

According to a Cental News Unit report from Beirut, 'Allamah Fadlallah, in yesterday's Friday prayers sermons, delivered at the Imam Reza Mosque in the southern suburbs of Beirut, said: Unity among Muslim and Arab nations, particularly unity between Syria and Lebanon, is a step toward further cooperation between the two countries in economic and security fields.

Also, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, a member of the Central Council of Lebanon's revolutionary movement of Hizballah, termed the accord between Syria and Lebanon as a manifestation of relations between the two nations in all cultural, political, economic, and security spheres. In his Friday prayers sermons, delivered at the Imam 'Ali Mosque in Burj al-Barajinah in the southern suburbs of Beirut, he called for a comprehensive unity between the two nations of Syria and Lebanon at all levels.

King Fahd Congratulates al-Hirawi

NC2605133591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 May 91

["Text" of cable from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi]

[Text] His Excellency Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Lebanese Republic:

On the occasion of the signing of the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation, and Coordination between the two fraternal countries of Syria and Lebanon, it pleases me to send to Your Excellency and to the fraternal Lebanese people the most heartfelt congratulations and warmest blessings. We hope this treaty will develop the relations between the two fraternal countries in a way that achieves their hopes and their people's aspirations for stability and prosperity.

It also pleases me to express to Your Excellency our hope that this historic step to consolidate the distinctive relations between the two countries will conform with their desire for cohesion and solidarity and will coordinate efforts to achieve their common objectives.

I wish Your Excellency good health and happiness. For the fraternal Lebanese people I wish continuing progress and prosperity.

Fahd Bin-'abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosque and king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Lebanese Forces Said To Give Weapons to Army

NC2805162791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Lebanese Forces has given the Lebanese Army five T- 54 tanks and a gunboat as a gift.

Israeli Gunboats off Coast; Clashes in South

NC2905100391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes have conducted mock raids over Sidon, the camps, the area east of Sidon, and Iqlim al-Tuffah, drawing heavy antiaircraft fire. The Israeli aircraft began their low altitude sorties at 0930. Israeli gunboats were also spotted off the coast between Sidon and al-Naqurah.

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes involving rockets and automatic weapons took place on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines between the Popular Liberation Army-Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces and the Lahd militia.

Al-Asad, Khaddam Meet PLO's Qaddumi, Delegation

JN2805113091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1117 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1130 today received the PLO delegation comprising Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], and Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee members. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at 0930 today received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The meeting reviewed the general situation in the region after the Gulf war and the developments related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Joint Cooperation Announced

NC2805161491 Paris AFP in English 1602 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Damascus, May 28 (AFP)—The PLO has ended an eight- year leadership dispute with Syria and the two will cooperate in preparations for a Middle East peace conference, a senior PLO official announced Thursday.

The three days of talks that ended Tuesday between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Syria are "the beginning of a new stage in Syrian-Palestinian relations," said Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

"The meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad opens the door to cooperation in the next stage and in various areas, especially the political efforts for the preparation of a peace conference.

He also hailed what he called "the concern of Damascus for an independent Palestinian representation through the PLO" in the peace process.

A Syrian spokesman, without commenting on the status of ties, said both sides discussed the "situation in the region, the Israeli-Arab conflict and proposals to start a peace process based on U.N. resolutions."

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said Syria and the PLO shared the same views "on all the proposed questions, notably the holding of an international peace conference under the aegis of the United Nations, its meeting times and the participation of all parties concerned by the Arab- Israeli conflict."

After a meeting Sunday between Faruq Qaddumi, who led the PLO delegation, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a senior Palestinian source said the two sides agreed on the need for a U.N. sponsored peace conference and rejected all "partial" solutions in the region.

Syria and the PLO, according to a Palestinian source, also insisted that there be a global rather than a partial resolution of the conflict in the Middle East.

On the issue of Palestinian participation at any future peace conference, Syria backed the inclusion of the PLO either independently or within an Arab delegation, a Palestinian source reported.

Israel has rejected any role for the PLO in the negotiations but is reported to be favorable to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team.

The visit here of Mr. Qaddumi and his delegation is the first high-level PLO-Syrian contact in Damascus since 1983, when the two sides fell out over the leadership of the organization.

Syria at the time denounced the policies of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, describing them as amounting to capitulation to Israel.

Mr. Qaddumi is accompanied by Abu-'Ali Mustafa, Sulayman al- Najjab and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, all of whom are members of the PLO executive committee.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Reportedly Enter Qandahar City

BK2805152091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have entered Qandahar city and they have attacked many military posts of Kabul regime troops. The reports say that they killed more than 40 Kabul regime troops in these attacks.

Hekmatyar, Sayyaf Reject Perez de Cuellar Plan

BK2505114891 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 24 May 91 p 10

[Text] The latest United Nations efforts to end the war in Afghanistan have been rejected by two Mujahidin leaders Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Prof. Abdul Rasool Sayyaf while the Kabul regime Prime Minister has accepted the initiative.

The two Mujahidin leaders said the initiative was unacceptable and was an insult to the Afghan people.

The United Nations has not provided any details of the blue print but the Secretary General has set out five elements which are intended to lay the foundation for moving towards a ceasefire, intra-Afghan dialogue and a transitional arrangement leading to a broad-based government.

The Kabul regime says it accepted the proposals for a political solution to the civil war announced on Tuesday [21 May] by United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar. Kabul radio has urged the leaders of the Mujahidin to accept the plan.

The Afghan Prime Minister has said he was prepared to meet the leader of the largest Mujahidin Organisation, the Jamiat-e Eslami in another attempt to find a solution. He was responding to an offer made ten days ago by Prof. Rabbani.

Prof. Rabbani said he will be prepared to meet senior non- communist members of the coalition in Kabul under condition that they were not representing the government.

The Afghan Premier, the most senior non-party member in the government, has agreed to those conditions. He said he believes the meeting would be a very positive step forward in search for a political solution. When asked if such talks would have the approval of President Najibullah, he said everyone from the President to downward is struggling for peace. He said the talks will be between two Afghans, there will be no restriction.

Prof. Rabbani's Jamiat has the support of the most important commanders inside Afghanistan. The future role for Dr. Najibullah will be that how to bring this country's fundamentalist groups to the negotiating table. [sentence as published]

India

Contacts With Sri Lanka on Assassination Probe

BK2905090591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, contacts have been made by the Indian High Commission with defense and security agencies for necessary assistance from the Sri Lankan authorities to help the Indian investigation team visiting Colombo shortly to find out if the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had a hand in the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

The Sri Lankan defense secretary, General Cyril Ranataunga, has already said Sri Lanka would give all assistance in the matter, if asked for.

LTTE Activists Rounded Up in Tamil Nadu

BK2505090291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, over 100 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] activists have been rounded up following the assassination of the former prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, at Sriperumbudur. Disclosing this, the state chief secretary, Mr. T.V. Anthony, said in Madras that all the coastal areas in the southern district of the state and the refugee camps are being kept under strict vigil and surveillance. He said that over 3,600 antisocial elements have also been rounded up all over the state during the last three days. Mr. Anthony said measures have been taken to maintain law and order.

Our Madras correspondent reports that life has come to normal in Tamil Nadu after three days. Bus services have commenced all over the state and milk supplies have also resumed. Our correspondent, quoting the chief secretary of the state government, says that instructions have been issued to maintain strict vigil to avert clashes between political parties. Three self-immolation cases have been reported from North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Tiruchirappalli districts.

State Secretary Gives Update

BK2605092091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, normalcy has been prevailing in the state since yesterday. Disclosing this to newsmen, the state chief secretary, Mr. Anthony, said in Madras today that more than 7,000 persons have been arrested so far under various charges.

Kashmir Official on Pakistani Reports of Clashes

BK2605164891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesman today regretted that the Pakistani electronic media continue to give imaginary reports about happenings in the

state in a most absurd manner. Most of the reports are concocted and baseless. He said even today, Pakistan Television telecast a news report alleging clashes between the army and Kashmiri terrorists in Jammu, whereas there has been no such incident and the city continues to be peaceful. He said this is a part of Pakistan's disinformation campaign to mislead the people.

About 200 arrested Kashmiri militants have appealed to the Pakistani prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, and the opposition leader, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, to sort out their differences with New Delhi and establish brotherly relations with the Indian people. In a signed appeal from the prison near Jammu to the Pakistani leaders, the militants have urged them to help usher in an era of peace in Kashmir by discouraging the cult of violence.

Meanwhile, in Kashmir Valley, 34 terrorists have been arrested and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered by the security forces in search operations in Srinagar, Badgam, and Kupwara districts since yesterday. A civilian was injured in cross-firing at Kangan in Srinagar District.

The Congress-I has expressed concern over reported attempts by terrorists to foment trouble in Kashmir under the present situation. A party spokesman today demanded that the government take note of such reports and take adequate measures to protect the territorial integrity of the country.

Kashmir Meeting Decides Border Movement Action

BK2805150491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The government will sternly deal with any movement across the border in Jammu and Kashmir. This was decided at a high- level meeting in New Delhi chaired by the prime minister on the Kashmir situation. The meeting was attended by the state governor, Mr. Girish Saxena; the three service chiefs; the cabinet secretary; the defense secretary; and the home secretary. It took note of the fact that attempts to cross the border from either side are likely to be stepped up with the melting of snows in the coming days. It was noted that the people of Kashmir are fed up with the militants and they want peace to be restored and economic activity to resume.

Weekend Punjab Violence Leaves 37 Dead

BK2705031391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] New Delhi, May 26 (AFP)—Indian security forces shot and killed 11 suspected Sikh separatists, taking to 37 the death toll in an upsurge of violence in Punjab at the weekend, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Seven top militants sought for numerous murders in the northern state were killed and two committed suicide Sunday in separate encounters with police and paramilitary troops in the districts of Amritsar and Jalandhar.

The most fierce encounter took place in the village of Sangma near the holy city of Amritsar, where security forces battled a heavily-armed group of gunmen for 10 hours after preventing their escape in a van, PTI said.

Three Sikh militants were killed by gunfire and two ate cyanide and died after being cornered, PTI said.

Police raided the village on receiving information that a 10- member separatist gang had taken refuge in a Sikh temple and were helping in the election campaign of a Sikh candidate for the Punjab assembly, PTI said.

The candidate was identified as Balwinder Singh Sanga, brother of a separatist leader who was killed in a shootout with police on November 3.

Four top militants were killed in the Jalandhar shootout, and four more died with a policeman in a gunbattle in the district of Ropar, which also left three policemen seriously injured, PTI said.

Two suspected Sikh militants were killed in internecine hostilities elsewhere in Punja?'ultural ordering Pakistan.

In a series of hit-and-run attacks by gunmen purported to be Sikh militants, 21 people were killed Saturday night and Sunday.

The latest deaths took to at least 1,904 the toll so far this year in violence related to the Sikh campaign for a separate homeland called Khalistan in Punjab.

BJP Promises Stability; Congress-I 'Confident'

BK2605163691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has cautioned the people against what it called attempts to short-circuit the electoral process in the country. A resolution to this effect was adopted at its two-day national executive meeting in New Delhi. The party has said that a strong and stable government is needed at the center to meet the challenges facing the nation.

Releasing the resolution at a news conference, the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, claimed that the BJP can provide stability to the country if elected to power. Dr. Joshi made it clear that the party is against the idea of a national government at the center.

Opposing any change in the revised polling schedule, he said the Election Commission and the government should ensure free and fair polls with adequate security arrangements, particularly in some constituencies of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh. He charged the Congress-I of indulging in violence against his party workers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala and demanded a probe into it.

On Punjab, the BJP president wanted the Election Commission to reconsider the polling date for the state by taking all parties into confidence.

The Congress-I says that even before the election is over, the BJP has changed its plank from Ram Rajya [rule of Lord Rama] to stability. The party spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said in New Delhi today that the Congress-I faced many crises in the past and it is confident that it will overcome the present situation.

BJP Condemns Attacks on Offices, Workers

BK2605035091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] National Executive began a two-day meeting in New Delhi yesterday to discuss the political situation following Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. Addressing the opening session, the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, said political parties should give serious thought to devise steps to save the democratic process in the country.

The party adopted a resolution expressing deep sorrow over the violent death of Rajiv Gandhi.

Later briefing newsmen, the party vice president, Mr. Sunder Singh Bhandari, condemned the alleged attacks on BJP offices and workers after the assassination.

Congress-I Leadership Meeting Scheduled for 29 May

BK2805160291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The crucial meeting of the Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] to decide the leadership issue will be held in New Delhi tomorrow. The party spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, told newsmen that timing of the meeting will be decided only after the return of the CWC members from Allahabad where they have gone for the immersion of the ashes of Rajiv Gandhi. The party general secretary, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, told newsmen that the Congress-I remain united and will pursue the programs and policies as laid down by Rajiv Gandhi. He alleged that the BJP is trying to exploit the situation following Mr. Gandhi's assassination.

Bengal Unit of Congress Supports Rao as New Leader

BK2605161091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] The West Bengal Congress Committee has urged the All India Congress Committee to unanimously elect the veteran leader, Mr. Narasimha Rao, as the president of the party. Mr. Rao should also be authorized to lead the party in the second and third stages of elections. In a telegram sent to four senior leaders of the party, including Mr. Rao, the party's West Bengal unit president, Mr. Siddharth Shankar Ray, said since Mrs. Sonia Gandhi is not willing to accept the offer of presidency, however, she has to be respected.

Iran

Velayati Says U.S. Ship 'Attacked' Naval Vessel

LD2505111991 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Kerman, May 25, IRNA—The U.S. ship which attacked an Iranian Navy vessel in the Persian Gulf waters last Tuesday night has been found responsible for the incident by competent experts in Iran's Armed Forces Command Headquarters, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a press conference here Friday.

He added that the Foreign Ministry has demanded necessary explanations in this regard.

Velayati arrived in the capital of this southern province Thursday to lay the cornerstone of a medical university and returned to Tehran Friday.

On the recent Iraqi violation of the Iranian borders, he noted that the Iraqi forces have repeatedly violated the Iranian frontiers in the past several months. The U.N. has dispatched a delegation to the Iran-Iraq border to probe cases of the cease-fire violations. The team in its initial stage of investigation has confirmed several cases of Iraqi aggression against Iran.

On return of the Iraqi refugees to their homeland, Velayati said, "Up till now we have not compelled any refugee to return home. Our attitude towards both the Iraqi and Afghan refugees in the past several years has been based on Islamic and humanitarian principles and we are making efforts to prepare the ground for their honorable return."

"In the past several weeks, a number of Iraqi refugees have returned to Iraq and we hope that they will continue to do so," the minister said.

On the security arrangements in the Persian Gulf, Velayati said, "We are striving towards establishment of regional cooperation with the regional countries. Some achievements have been made in this regard and there have been shuttles between Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral Arab states... So far some progress has been made and we have received proposals from some of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) members on ways of cooperation."

Referring to a joint session of foreign ministers of Iran and the six members of the PGCC in New York last fall, he said, "It is not unlikely that the session will be repeated."

Meanwhile speaking in a session attended by university professors and students here Thursday Velayati touched on the Hajj pilgrimage issue and said, "Participation in the annual Hajj rituals is an Islamic duty regardless of political ups and downs." He continued, "If we are to do a serious job in the Islamic government, we must really be serious both in our words and actions and avoid making irresponsible remarks because performance of

Hajj rituals is impossible without establishment of ties between the two countries (Iran and Saudi Arabia)."

On holding of "antipathy towards unbelievers" demonstrations in holy Mecca in the forthcoming Hajj ceremonies, he said he has concluded an agreement with his Saudi counterpart which includes allowing the Iranian pilgrims to hold the rally.

Iran's foreign minister further commented on participation of the Iranian capitalists residing abroad in Iran's development plan and said, "The late Imam Khomeyni had no objection against the Iranian capitalists who were not under prosecution and were willing to do serious and constructive jobs in the country."

Asked to comment on the prospect of Iran-U.S. ties, Velayati said, "The Islamic Republic does not intend to establish ties with America."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers

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[Friday prayer sermons delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 24 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Thanks be to God, who is the Lord of the two worlds. [passage omitted]

In today's sermons, topics of the day have piled up; so we have no alternative but to devote both sermons to current affairs. We shall have to interrupt, once again, the debate on Islam as a faith for life.

We have both the anniversary of the capture of Khorramshahr, to which we must devote at least one sermon, and the regional issues—issues which are very important for our dear ummah. These issues also demand a sermon of their own. We shall therefore eliminate the preliminaries and embark immediately on the subject matter in hand.

Today our country celebrates the great and historic day of the capture of Khorramshahr. The presence of our Armed Forces on the streets and at Friday prayer ceremonies throughout the country will make it possible for that valuable and historic page of our revolution's book to be read once again today. That way, the memory of those glorious days will be awakened at this point in time. It will be good to pay attention to the issue of the [Iran-Iraq] war; it is good to review the war as a whole and the strange events through which we lived.

The imposed eight-year war ranks as a unique event in the history of the world; it is so in all its dimensions. In our region and country, that war constitutes an extraordinary phenomenon. World history has yet to acquire the necessary courage, gallantry, fairness, and sense of justice to draw up the facts about that war and to place them at the disposal of humanity. The valuable documents in the war headquarters of both sides as well as those in the world political centers—centers which used to support the party that was against us and used to seek to weaken us—still remain classified. They are not freely available. Since the enemies of the Islamic revolution have not abandoned their hostility against it and since they are frightened of the movement of the Islamic revolution, they do not reveal any secrets of the war which may be in our favor. Therefore, the history of the war is confined to what we say about the facts and those facts which are suitable to be mentioned among ourselves. These are enough to reveal the truth and to force the world to confess that we were right, we were strong, while our enemy and its supporters were wrong.

It was really amazing. When all the calculations said that Iran was not ready to defend itself and when it was thought that the Army had lost its balance and that the officials were busy with the day- to-day troubles of the revolution, they attacked with all the resources at their disposal. They made progress with lightening speed in certain sectors. During the first phase, Khorramshahr was an exception. This was the exception. This oppressed city was the first objective of the enemy, who put extensive forces into its capture, and it resisted heroically for over 20 days. Our military and popular forces fought their jihad with tooth and nail. They resisted and prevented the rapid advance of the enemy. That was very effective for the future course of the war. Some may think: All right, what was the 20 days for? We lost a number of martyrs in Khorramshahr; in the end they came and captured the city. This is wrong. The very same 20 days meant that the resistance front was strengthened in Abadan Island. The enemy could not cross the Karun and enter Abadan. [passage omitted]

Saddam miscalculated when he thought the army had lost its balance. He saw that a considerable number of the Army's commanders were eliminated so he thought that the Army had no command. He saw that American experts and foreign military advisers had left the country so he thought that the our military and defense structure and management had fallen apart; that we could not prepare for war. In normal circumstances, these calculations would be correct. The point that they did not see was this: The body of the Army was quite different from what they imagined. They thought that an Army which was under the training and management of American forces would have its body dependent on foreigners. This mistake lead them to take the risk and enter Iran. It became clear early on that they were wrong because the Army—despite its retreat in parts of the front in the early days when it was caught off guard—regained its balance immediately and began to resist. This is because the main body of the Army was Islamic and revolutionary. [passage omitted]

The Air Force entered the battlefield and inflicted such a heavy blow behind the lines in Iraq in those first sensitive days that the Iraqis could not repair the damage inflicted upon them during the first days of the war. They

did not have a good air defense system in those days. Their sensitive areas were bombed, with over 100 sorties every day. Sometimes, they would take care of the ground war from the air.

Our navy succeeded in destroying almost the entire Iraqi Navy in a swift operation. The day it happened has been recorded as Navy Day in our history. Thus, those operations denied Iraq any chance of controling the north of the Persian Gulf.

Gradually the popular forces were trained and then brought to the field. Well-organized fighting bodies were shaped out of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Basijis. Then we went on the offensive once the enemy was forced to run away. [passage omitted]

On a day like today, in the third phase of the operation, we arrived in Khorramshahr. It is worth mentioning that after our forces had captured Khorramshahr, while our soldiers were swimming in the Arvand [Shatt al] waters on the other side of Khorramshahr, and some were performing their religious ablutions, the American and English broadcasting services were saying that the Iraqi forces were forcing the Iranians to retreat. At one time, we filmed 19,000 Iraqi prisoners of war being marched past in single file on their way to camp, and yet those broadcasting stations lied and said that it was the Iraqis who were forcing Iranians to retreat. That was the extent to which they supported Iraqis in order to raise their morale and in an effort to demoralize our forces. They went on telling lies up to the last moment.

The defeat inflicted on the Iraqi regime and its supporters was instrumental in aborting their dream. The capture of Khorramshahr changed the picture. [passage omitted] Recently, on the day they left Kuwait, they said that leaving Kuwait was like leaving al- Muhammarah [Khorramshahr], meaning that they will return to Kuwait as they intend to return eventually to Khorramshahr. In any case, the Iraqis ran away from Khorramshahr although they said they were simply withdrawing to seek negotiations. [passage omitted]

The liberation of Khorramshahr was a major feat. Even our enemies had to admit to that fact at the time. Today, this very morning, I was listening to the radio feature called the "Review of Foreign Broadcasting Programs" which is carried by the Voice of the Islamic Republic. Here one of the confessions which was made then and quoted today was a statement from a military analyst who said that Saddam is now defeated because of the capture of Khorramshahr. [passage omitted]

The next issue that I deem necessary to discuss with you is the current phase of the postwar period, which is the time for reconstruction. Here I would like to raise a fundamental point on why emotions are now prepared to ponder that issue. Does the ending of the Iran-Iraq war, laying down arms, and guns falling silent mean that the problems of the revolution have ended, and that we are entering the reconstruction phase with an open hand and with more facilities? Are those who were fighting us, either openly or covertly, those who supported the Iraqi Ba'th Party, now our friends and no longer our enemies? Have they left us alone or not? If they have not left us alone, then what are they up to now? If they have left us alone, we will see. I would like to clarify those two points to show that conditions are now much more sensitive and require more attention, vigilance, better management, and resourcefulness. I would like to clarify that issue for you up to a point. In our society, we see there are persons who display ill-intentions toward people's requests. They are forever saying things like: Now that the war has ended, why do we have that? Why we do not have that? Why is the situation like that? No one properly replied to those remarks. So in order to inform our people we would like to clarify the situation a little.

The first question is: Has our spending been reduced now that the war is over? Has the war expenditure been reduced, and are we able to spend the cost of the war on reconstruction now? Initially, probably all of you believe, or course, it is obvious. We used to spend so much on bullets. We used to send so many people. Now I will provide you with some figures so that you can see what the situation is.

Currently your country is spending a great deal more on war than when we were at war. Of course, now you will ask: why? During wartime, if you read in our annual budget reports—those who understand budgeting will know—usually we allocated some 50 or 60 billion tumans for defense and usually as supplements to the budget, or because of overspending. That figure would always be under 100 billion tumans. That is apart from the Armed Forces' salaries. That is only for defense, which is a separate item.

After the war, in our five-year plan, we allocated 560 billion for defense expenditures. Think of that figure. That means the official budget expenditure is a great deal more than we used to spend during wartime. The reason for that is clear. If we used to produce ammunition then, we should also produce it now or fill our arsenals. We should replace weapons that were destroyed. Many of the things that we used to provide for daily consumption during wartime we should now buy and keep because we need many months of reserves for any eventuality. That is a rule in defense. It is like that. That was the official defense expenditure.

Some bulky figures have come on top of that which no one counts as war expenditure. One is for reconstruction. This year we have allocated some 30 billion tumans, 27 billion officially, and some more unofficially, for the reconstruction of the war-stricken regions. Remember this, 30 billion. We are also giving 16.5 billion tumans to the Martyrs Foundation for martyrs' families. Also the foundation for the deprived [bonyad-e mostaz'afan] spends some 15-16 billion tumans, even though that figure comes from the foundation's incoming budget. But that foundation used to belong to the government and now it has been separated and its income is allocated entirely to the selfless devotees.

These two items amount to 30, or a bit more, this comes to 60 billion tumans. We give 12 billion tumans to the free men [POW's]. This comes to 72 billion tumans. We give some 5 billion tumans to the migrants foundation, since many of the migrants have not yet returned. This comes to 78 billion tumans. We have set aside some 10 billion tumans for the self-sacrificing devotees. Our martyrs' salaries must be paid [to their families]. We will manage to pay them either this year or next year. We had to pay them before and we did not. This comes to 88 billion tumans. We have to set aside sums for other activities. The salaries of the military during the war—whether the Guards or the Armed Forces—were limited. After the war we must compensate them. We have raised their salaries by a great amount. We have to pay their allowances which were in their contract but were frozen. That costs some 20 billion tumans. So, directly, some 110 billion tumans are already spent with respect to the war.

Concerning reconstruction, there is a certain amount that we spend that is not included in these figures. For instance, we are rebuilding our oil platforms in the Persian Gulf; we are reconstructing the factories and power plants that were destroyed during the war throughout the country. None of this is included in the figures I have just given you. They are met within the budgets of the respective ministries. Just look: now we are spending nearly 250 billion tumans with respect to the war. The total budget for those days was not as much as it is now. [passage omitted]

When the war was over we had to spend 500 billion tumans on half- finished projects. They were delayed because of the war. We have to see to all this, it is a very difficult task. For example, for the Mobarak-e steel plant, 30 billion tumans were set aside during the first proposals; now, we have to spend 80 billion tumans to complete the proposals. The same has occurred in the majority of our proposals. We have a lot of work that we did not touch because of the war. This is the most expensive and hidden cost. No one takes this into account.

In those seven or eight years we bought no trucks, or we bought very few of them. We have to buy some. We did not repair our roads, our ports were damaged, so we have to construct some more ports. We did not construct enough power plants, so we have power cuts. We did not erect dams,so we are facing a shortage of water. We did not build refineries so we have to import oil now. We did not construct sewage systems for the cities; they are all in difficulty now. We did not allocate enough to agriculture; it does not have enough tractors and combine harvesters. Sometimes the crops remain in the fields. Our transportaton system is so weak that there are currently 2 million tonnes of goods left at our ports. The factories and warehouses are waiting for them. We have to take care of all these problems now, but they are all the result of war. [passage omitted]

The people who have endured 10 years of hardship and war shortages naturally have a right, when the guns have fallen silent, to expect their situation to change. Housing construction has fallen behind because we did not have the construction materials to build houses. We built some here and there with the materials that we had. We have fallen very far behind in building houses for people.

Well, these are issues that arose after the war. Western military and economic analysts made an analysis in the early days when the guns had fallen silent. Fortunately, they even failed in their analysis. They understand these things because they themselves have been through war. They understand it well; they have experienced it. They made an analysis to the effect that the Islamic revolution had kept its people satisfied up to now with the excuse of war so the people had no expectations. After the war, all mouths are open and all hands are tied, and there is nothing. Empty pockets cannot feed mouths. Their analysis was that the society of the Islamic revolution would suddenly come to itself after the war, when everything had calmed down, and like a patient whose whole body is shattered and who is suddenly deprived of tranquilizers it would feel pain. That is when the ground would collapse beneath the Islamic Republic's leaders and they would fall. That was their analysis.

The first and second five-year plans were formulated for that reason. All the problems that I have mentioned...[Rafsanjani changes thought] All I am saying is based on figures and numbers. No one can cast doubt on my figures, even with respect to foreign exchange matters. Some people may say we have more foreign exchange this year. They say that. Our foreign exchange expenses have risen greatly since the war. The reconstruction issues that I mentioned—if we are spending 30 billion tumans for the reconstruction of our war zones, that consists mainly of foreign exchange. Maybe we do not give foreign exchange directly. However, because we do not have enough construction materials in our country we need to import the rest. We have to import iron. We have to import many of the tools and machinery because we do not have enough. Add to this the fact that we have again had several extraordinary events this year. We have very heavy expenditures because of the earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan. We are spending 30 billion tumans on reconstruction this year in addition to the money we spent last year. Think of it: 30 billion tumans, the equivalent of all the reconstruction in the war zones.

Because of the floods in Zabol and the deprivation there—we have been unable to take care of it during these past years, and Zabol is really in danger of being destroyed by a flood—we are pledging some 10 billion tumans for drainage and the improvement of rivers, lakes, and roads. An incident such as these refugees who have now come to Iran, more than 1 million sick, hungry and afflicted people have entered the country and some $15 million per day is being spent on them—that is an astronomical figure for our country.

Taking all that into account, nevertheless, with a correct program, with correct planning, a five-year plan, with the presence of the people on the scene, and with the serious

work and efforts of officials and the people, these issues are being miraculously dealt with. The dream that they had dreamed for us after the war is turning out in our favor and not in theirs.

Our two [five-year] plans are for this: to organize developments for the next 10 years. All the things that I mentioned had fallen behind must be brought up to date. Gross domestic production, which collapsed in the last years of the war and which was horrendous because of the poverty and shortages, moved in such a way last year that it took a gigantic stride toward growth. Today, you cannot find a single workshop throughout the country that needs raw material and that cannot obtain it. In the past we were unable even to provide frames, wool, cotton, and raw silk to our carpet weavers. Today, the markets are full of these things. All the small workshops that come to town to buy things find their requirements in the market. There is enough and they can buy it, whether it is expensive or cheap. Factories which thought they would be forced to keep limping along for the next seven or eight years are now galloping at full speed.

If a nation is on the scene, is interested, wants to work, likes its revolution, its people, its path, its imam, and its leader, it can thus put its problems behind it.

The conclusion I want to draw from this first part is this: Do not let them put into your heads suggestions, their words, the odd shots they fire at you from rostrums which somehow discourage you into thinking that things are run badly, because something is expensive, or because there is a shortage of something now that the war is over. Keep those figures in mind so that the mischief-making is not effective. I do not want to speak about officials. I am speaking about your revolutionary spirit. I want to say: Do not let them make you regret your revolution. Let them know that all the satans of the world came here to break us and were unable to do so. They thought that they could break us during the reconstruction stage, but they have failed again today. The country is moving, as you can see, toward equilibrium and the path. [crowd interrupts with chants of support]

Let me tell you something else. Look, we are determined to run this country on our own and we do not intend to be dependent on anyone for its reconstruction. This does not mean that if you ask others for help, or that if it is possible to use foreign resources at this stage through normal international links, we will not do this—we will do it, but we will maintain our ideals, our principles, and our program, which is based on the policies stipulated at the time of the imam [Khomeyni] by his supreme policy-making council and which was approved by the government and the Majlis and is being implemented.

Foreign assistance, limited as it is, is very, very insignificant alongside the efforts, work, and selflessness of the people themselves. Its presence or absence cannot change our destiny by very much. They know that themselves. Over the issue of refugees, for example, as I said: our expenses are $15 million per day; of course we have had assistance. Contrary to some of the sharp and somewhat excessive things the media and certain people have said, we should also not belittle foreign assistance too much. So far, they have sent about 20,000 tonnes of usable goods; there have been 400 to 500 flights. Much has been sent, but of course it is not comparable to the expense that you are bearing. As I said, it is $15 million per day. If you add it all up, we have spent $600 to $700 million so far, and it all has to be imported. Even if we give wheat, we have too little ourselves; we import it. Whatever we give, we have to replace from abroad somehow. The tents are imported. Many of the other things are imported. Medicine: We do not have enough; if we use it we have to import more. We give our own, from our warehouses, but we have to replace it.

Our expenses are heavy, therefore. We have had assistance. I want to thank those who have helped, and at their head is Germany; the Germans are ahead in giving assistance, and others have also helped proportionately. Unfortunately, we heard today that one of the German aircraft carrying relief workers has crashed. We just received the news that it is on fire in the desert. It is a cause for regret. We convey our condolences to the families and the government of those people who had come to help the poor refugees. We praise their efforts. But we want it known that, on the whole, we have borne the main weight, even though the incident is not of our own making. We did not make the people of Iraq homeless. They did it. The hospitality we are offering has been imposed on us and is out of our control, but we are performing our humanitarian and Islamic duty. The world owes us for this. Those who caused their homelessness owe us. They must pay us one day and they will do so. Nevertheless, it is a burden that we must now bear.

The second issue I want to raise in this connection is this: Have our enemies given up? In my opinion, no. Gentlemen, dear nation, I want to say a few words to you and I hope that my words will also be understood by those with whom I am displeased. What needs to be said is that the United States, which unsheathed its sword against us from the first, has still not put the sword back in the sheath. The reason is this—the simplest reason: our possessions which are unfairly kept in the United States and which we need so badly ourselves have been blocked by it, and it is not allowing them out. Of course there are a thousand reasons. That is just one clear reason which they cannot deny. Then there are the other things which they did during the war and afterward and the things that they have said.

However, their modus operandi has changed. This is a very subtle point. I expect our youth and the people in the streets to pay attention to this point. They have so far launched direct attacks against the country's sovereignty, our imam, and our country's officials. They failed. They saw that the more they attacked, the more loyal the people became. They changed their method. They saw that their attacks failed. The war failed. The coups d'etat failed. The disturbances failed. They had another idea. They are thinking: We must somehow tear the people

away from their officials and from their leader. That is what they want. That is what they wanted from the start; they chose the wrong method. This time, their mischief amounts to sowing discord and to putting words into the mouths of forces which the people consider as or imagine to be Hezbollahi; using those words to dishearten the people. Whatever happens, they make mountains out of molehills and they sow doubts in the minds of the hardworking class, the Hezbollahi class, and the enthusiastic and revolutionary people.

I do not want to go into details now. I am the proponent of unity. I am saying these things for the sake of unity. With all the enemies facing us, with all our problems, if we work for 10 years, we will be able to establish equilibrium in our country— if we all work together. Now, if some people want to use motives arising out of factional games to mislead this united nation, to bring the work of officials into question, the work of the system—they say in their private meetings: just mention the name of the eminent leader and then you can say whatever you like and there will be no problem. Just imagine for yourself, what does such an assertion mean? What kind of policy is that to adopt?

I cast my mind back now to the first years of the revolution, to the time when all our Hezbollahi people were shouting: Greetings to the companions of Khomeyni! There were some people, counterrevolutionaries, who called them the three Musketeers [Bani-Sadr, Ebrahim Yazdi, and Qotbzadeh], and they started those tales. Supporterss of Bani-Sadr would speak of the Hezbollahi forces and the defenders of the line of the imam as monopolizers of power and they constantly spoke of eliminating the revolutionary forces. The hypocrites [monafequin; reference to mojahedin-e khalq] were doing that; the left-wingers, the liberals, they were all speaking like that.

What sort of talk is that, discouraging the people and making them believe that the Hezbollah is being put aside; saying that the revolution has lost its color? Why keep saying things like that to discourage people. How has the revolution lost color? Let me tell you this: those people who say that the eminent leader has said such and such, contradict in the same breath the words of the leader, because the policies of the system are now approved in the Supreme National Security Council, which is the leader's right hand, and no policy is implemented without the leader's signature. Absolutely none. [crowd chants in support]

The country is free. The rostrums and the newspapers are free. This freedom is to our benefit. People can talk. But I want you to be aware. What is said to win a vote is not the same as what is said to safeguard the revolution. They are different. If those sympathetic to the revolution have any problems they put up with it today so that unity is not undermined; so that we will all be united.

The enemies are all around us, in the south, the west, and everywhere else. Yesterday they hit our boat in the Persian Gulf. Do you think we are safe? It needs initiative for us to sail our ship through the storm. What do they want from these people?

There was a time when the Islamic Republic Party and the three people who were everyone's target—the martyr Beheshti, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and myself—were accused of monopolizing power and eliminating the revolutionary forces—those same revolutionaries who eventually ended up in the United States and Iraq and who are now fighting against you—by their newspapers, in the centers they had usurped in these universities; even in Qom seminary, or anywhere else they could go.

Must we witness such events today? What sort of conduct is this? You should be united. Do not hurl accusations at one another. Cooperate with each other. We came through hard times, the war. The consequences of the war are evident now. Today we have to pay for the reconstruction of the power plant the Iraqis attacked seven years ago. [passage omitted]

What are we seeking now? What legacy is there that we want to share now, except hardwork? This is a complaint that I make to you, the people. I leave it to your own judgment and am not prepared to shed my responsibilities and embark on exhausting alarmist debates. However, I consider it beneficial to point this much out. God willing, it will open the door to cooperation and unity. Of course, I know that reactions to these remarks will start tomorrow and they will expose themselves. You just wait and see who will talk. [crowd chants slogans]

Thank you very much. I say these things as a friend. I do not mean any partcular person. I mean a movement that is suspicious to me. I think that even if not directly, at least our enemies wish it would happen. That is why I pointed this out. God willing everyone will accept it in the friendly way it was given. If necessary, I will give the requiste explanations to clarify the matter. But I hope things will will not go that far. [passage omitted]

I will raise several basic points in the second sermon, but I will be brief because the first sermon was too long. [passage omitted]

Something very ugly has been done in Iraq. It is hardly possible to imagine that a government can be so savage after inflicting so much harm on its people. [passage omitted] After experiencing so much calamity, the people decided to take their fate into their own hands. If the Iraqi rulers were wise they would have welcomed such a move by the people. That was our advice to them. They would have said that they had made a mistake and accepted people's wishes. [passage omitted] The best way the Iraqi rulers can serve the people is to leave now. Let the people follow their own desires. There may be some disorder, but the foreigners would not be so greedy concerning Iraq. [passage omitted]

The most intelligent thing to say was this: All right, we made a mistake. If they had said this, the people would not have been shown that reaction. Either the guilty

party will be put on trial, or the people may forgive him. This would have happened if they had cooperated with the people. They did not; they attacked the people. What did you gain from the desecration of those holy sites? Until yesterday you were proud of Imam Husayn's shrine, at least this is what you used to say. You even called your missiles by their names. You deceived the people. You dropped bombs on them, you destroyed them; this is how you have desecrated. These shrines were always a source of credit to Iraq. In the future, too, Iraq must be formed around these very same lines. [sentence as heard] What are you doing to these people? The good, hard-working people who were patient through 10 years of war. You oppressed them every day. Why are you doing this to them? What have we done to be hosts to more than 1 million of your refugees after all the damage that you inflicted on us?

After them, we are going to talk about that big idol, the United States. Why did you feel so sorry for the oppressed people of Kuwait? You came and brought your forces to repulse oppression from the people of Kuwait, to create security? The 10 million or so Iraqis are not human beings? Right in front of your eyes, you were right there when they massacred the people in al-Basrah. You heard the noise of the explosions yet you said nothing. You saw the helicopters flying right in front of you to get the people. Right in front of you they took their surrounded troops—you let them go—to kill the people. How can you answer? What is your answer to history? These human beings are being killed by your hands.

We asked Syria and Turkey they did not know the answer either. This is because you are after your own particular objectives. The real issue is this: You are scared of Islam. Let me be honest, you are not scared of Saddam or anyone else in the region, you are scared of Islam. If you take us into account, it is because of Islam in our country. [crowd chants support]

This tyranny is intolerable and unforgivable. The people will not forget it. The massacres are certainly placed at the door of the allied forces, especially the Americans because they are present there. We oppose your presence in the south as well as in the north, and we are not sorry that you have moved from the south to the north. The main thing is this question. We ask why. What is in the north that was missing in the south? Isn't it that you were afraid of Islam and wanted to let the Saddamists have a free hand to massacre the southerners, whom you believe are connected with us? You are both lying. God knows that both Saddam and the United States know that their accusations that the southerners were struggling at Iran's instigation are a lie. I swear by God that we learned about it after their uprising. Our help was merely the bread and water that we gave even during the Gulf war. We still offer this help. Now we are not busy, and anyone who comes to this side will receive help from us. Saddam wants to make a big issue out of this. This is a subtle point. Saddam makes a big issue of this so that he can get a prize from the United States. He can tell them: Look, it is the Iranians. Well; for the Americans this is the main fallacy. He shows off this main fallacy to them so that they let him continue to rule. This formula is very true; if the Saddam regime exists now it is so that more opportunity is given for the Muslim people to be driven more to the end of their tether and not let them make any move.

The people of Iraq are definitely moving themselves. Don't accuse them of deriving their inspiration from outside. Don't accuse us of provoking them. We have said something from the very start and we stand by it. You have misinterpreted it. We raised the issue of exporting the revolution and the imam explained that exporting the revolution means exporting the ideology [andisheh] of the revolution, not physically exporting it, not interfering in other people's affairs. Ideology is not something that you can confront with troops. Ideology is ever keener than a laser. It moves so delicately that suddenly one finds one's heart is conquered and no one knows about it. You cannot imprison thought. By these acts of yours you will only make it stronger, but only at the expense of the innocent Iraqi people coming to the end of their tether. We are really disgusted with this cooperation, whether it is by agreement or by chance, what has occurred between various affairs [jarayanha] so that the people of Iraq have to pay for it.

Another issue which is most regrettable is the Palestine issue. They are exploiting the existing conditions in the region, the weakness of many of the Islamic states, and the presence of foreign forces in the region, so that they can consolidate Israel in the region; to have its legitimacy endorsed by everyone. This is the worst thing that can happen. If the Arabs believe that they can confine Israel within an area by signing an agreement, it is a mistake. It will take the endorsement and then tomorrow it will embark on an attack. There is nothing to creating a pretext. Didn't Saddam find a pretext when he wanted to attack Kuwait? The Israelis want to obtain the endorsement [emza'] so that, even if it is in the old quarter of the occupied territories, they become legitimate. This is a very dangerous endorsement.

Fortunately we found the Syrians to be resistant; the movement to be resistant. But the mischief is very strong, the pressure is abundant. Israel's avarice and greed are way beyond all this. Israel is so arrogant, so expansionist that even now it is making demands on the United States. The United States says: Why are you building houses, settlements, in the occupied territories? Israel is not prepared to surrender even to this extent. Even if it surrenders at this stage, it will be tactical. Israel's strategy is different. Therefore at any juncture, any place, if we endorse Israel's legitimacy, we have lost. If there is going to be war, let it be. If there is to be revolution, let it be. Eventually one day it will happen.

Those who are trying to gather the Jews throughout the world at any expense, to the extent that they can't even accept their presence, ...[Rafsanjani changes thought] It is obvious that they are not coming for this bit of land. They are coming for something else. Otherwise, if we

take that land, the few millions of them that are there are too many for it. And those Jews who come to Israel do so on a calculated basis. They know that the place is not secure; that it is within the range of the (?neighboring) artillery. Therefore they have other things in mind. We hope that at this point the arrogance cannot implement its ominous objectives.

Of course, this calls for vigilance and readiness, readiness for self-sacrifice, the very thing that (?some) have done in the past and have preserved the issue thus far and have not let the jihad be extinguished, have not let the flame of the popular movement be extinguished. They should help. This should not come to pass. [passage omitted]

International Conference on Oil, Gas Opens

NC2705080591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] At 0930 this morning, Esfahan will be witness to the largest international conference on oil and gas issues. The conference will be attended by the OPEC secretary general, petroleum ministers of various countries, international experts, and correspondents from international agencies. The conference will be in session for three days. Our correspondent reports from Esfahan:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The International Conference on Oil and Gas in the 1990's, Prospects for Cooperation, will be held in Esfahan beginning this morning, Monday, 27 May until 29 May. In this unusual conference, hosted for the first time by the Islamic Republic of Iran, 15 oil ministers of OPEC member and non-member countries, researchers, heads of 60 major oil companies, correspondents of prominent international mass media, and those who are involved in oil affairs at home and abroad, will participate.

The main focus of this conference is to assess communications between oil consumers and oil producers. OPEC Secretary General Mr. Subroto explained the conference's importance in an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit correspondent in Esfahan. Mr. Subroto said: The reason the conferences failed in the seventies was because no confidence existed between oil consumers and producers. However, I believe there is a kind of overall cooperation between producers and consumers and the market has the necessary stability.

The OPEC secretary general said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is an important member of the organization. He added: The practical initiative taken by Iran should be considered a very important one by the oil market. This conference is being convened at a very appropriate time. [end recording]

The conference will address the following issues: the outlook on international events in the nineties, the role of information and the mass media in helping cooperating between consumers and producers, and the international oil and gas market in Iran and the Middle East.

According to the conference agenda, the ministers of petroleum, foreign affairs, economic affairs and finance, the head of the Plan and Budget Organization, and the Central Bank governor will address the conference.

In addition, the agenda says that the OPEC secretary general and the petroleum ministers of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Venezuela, Nigeria, South Korea, and Oman will speak on issues pertaining to energy in the nineties. The convening of the International Oil and Gas Conference is the joint effort of the Petroleum Ministry and the Foreign Ministry's Office of Political and International Studies.

Rafsanjani Message to Conference

LD2705102191 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Esfahan, May 27, IRNA—The three-day "International Conference on Oil and Gas in 1990s, Prospects for Cooperation" opened in this ancient city Monday morning with a message of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani calling for cooperation to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor and prompt efforts for the establishment of social justice.

The message read by Presidential Advisor for Research Activities Mustafa Mir-Salim stressed the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf with regards to the world demand for oil and gas and the existence of 5/6 of the world's oil reserves in the region.

The president said, "The emphasis on the region's cultural, ideological, politico-geographic, and historical characteristics together with its importance as the epicenter of energy reserves has created an amalgam potentially capable of encouraging any form of movement and initiative."

The message continued "The optimum move for the Islamic Republic of Iran is to promote peace, security and stability. If this is to be attained, regional states (producers) and non-regional countries (consumers) should embark on cooperations."

Major energy producing countries expect a fair price for energy consumed by major technology exporters, president told the conference attended by a number of oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC countries as well as domestic and foreign oil experts.

"The demand of the consuming countries may be met within the framework of an overall understanding void of political conflicts. It is binding upon all interested groups to come to an understanding of these basic requirements," read the message.

"17 trillion cubic meters of proven gas and 120 billion barrels of OPEC oil providing more than 160 billion barrels of world energy resources, in addition to other potential and active possibilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, further increase this country's vital role in the region."

The president reiterated Iran's readiness to embark on mutual cooperation with regional and non-regional countries to secure viable peace and stability within the framework of sensible policies.

Referring to Iran's immense gas reserves, he said that Iran can emerge as one of the world's richest countries in this respect.

Oil Minister Urges Cooperation

LD2705110291 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Esfahan, May 27, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Qolam Reza Aqazadeh who is hosting a three-day conference "On Oil and Gas in 1990s, Prospects for Cooperation" opened here Monday said that the main objective of the conference is to promote understanding among producers, consumers and oil companies.

In his address to the conference, the minister referred to the positive world developments in the past several years including detente in East-West relations, stating "The world is fully prepared to turn the seeds of various forms of cooperation into huge trees for the benefit of all nations."

Stating that countries are interdependent in today's world, he said the new economic order must take into account interests of all nations.

Turning to the economic growth of the industrialized world he said, "There is no contradiction between the industrial world's economic growth and growth in the raw material exporting nations of the developing world, both of which can move forward in a single direction."

He added that on the basis of past experience, "An atmosphere of understanding and mutual confidence has to be established between the producers and the consumers to enable us all to take steps towards optimizing the world economy's situation and promoting the world population's welfare."

Predicting that oil would continue to remain the main source of world energy for at least the next two decades, Aqazadeh said, "If producers satisfy the consumers' energy requirements through timely and sufficient supplies, a major portion of world capital would not be wasted as huge costs of maintaining the strategic petroleum reserves. By guaranteeing the demand for oil, and preventing unnecessary and destructive oil price fluctuations, the consumers too can play their part in allowing for a smooth and orderly implementation of the producers' economic development projects."

According to Aqazadeh, the conference will also raise the issue of technology transfer which is inseparable from environmental issues and "should in no way imply the transfer of environmental problems and the export of pollutant industries to the developing countries."

He suggested that the issue of environment should be raised as a key issue alongside topics such as human rights on the agenda of national and international bodies.

The minister also touched on the need for exchange of information on scientific, technical, economic and marketing aspects of oil to help promote producer-consumer understanding.

Velayati Addresses Conference

LD2705113391 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Esfahan, May 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday said that the Middle East countries have always been involved in some sort of calamities and military and political conspiracies preventing them from using their resources properly to improve their situation. Addressing the conference on "Oil and Gas in 1990s: Prospects for Cooperation", opened here today with a message of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he said "access to currency sources in view of selling oil in the international market is of top priority to Iran. For this very reason, we firmly believe that a general understanding for the preservation of the interests of both the oil producers and oil consumers can hold significance for both Iran's reconstruction and the future of her economy."

On the Persian Gulf war and its adverse effects on the region, he said that regional countries can prevent foreign intervention through collective cooperation and stressed that only through such cooperation the presence of the alien forces who are in the area only to preserve their own interest can be decreased. "Moreover, regional cooperation can maintain the balance in the oil and gas markets, thus providing the possibility of reconstructing the region, fulfilling the existing financial commitments and requirements," he told the audience.

"The concept of detente in the international arena, the expansion of ties, intergovernmental understandings, the priority of economic issues at regional and international levels and the significance of reconstruction in Iran and the Persian Gulf region all underscore the necessity of security, political understanding and vast economic, political and social cooperations in the Persian Gulf as one of the world's greatest oil and gas reservoirs (more than 65 percent to 75 percent of world reserves in this region)," he added.

He said that regional countries should expand their cooperation and exchange views with oil consumers and industrial nations in order to stabilize oil prices in the world oil market. "A stable and permanent revenue that

would ensure future regional plans can be attained through a series of regional cooperative measures with other OPEC members along with coordination, exchange of views and the tandem working of these states with consumers," Velayati said.

Turning to the latest developments in Iraq, he said "so long as aggression, dictatorship, and genocide prevail in Iraq, the Middle East, and specifically the Persian Gulf will not enjoy viable peace and stability." Calling for the recognition of the rights of the Iraqi refugees who have fled to Iran and Turkey under the pressures of the Iraqi regime, he said "they should have a right to self-determination on the basis of democracy and their own beliefs." Referring to Iran's lodging of Iraqi refugees he expressed the hope that "the U.N. and the countries and governments who voice concern about human rights would not relegate the issue to oblivion."

Reiterating Iran's support for the Muslim Palestinians he said that the rights of Palestinians should be materialised adding that the "fate of the Middle East and Persian Gulf security depends, to a great extent, upon the settlement of the Palestinian issue."

Saudi Oil Minister Speaks

LD2705150591 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Esfahan, May 27, IRNA—Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir said here Monday that oil is the most vital fuel which turns the wheels of the industries, and it will remain the same for a long time in the future, while in comparison with other fuels it is more economical and less pollutant.

Nazir was addressing the international conference titled "Oil and Gas in the 1990s: Prospects for Cooperation", which jointly sponsored by the Iranian Oil Ministry and the Foreign Ministry Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) opened in this historical city today.

He said that the developments in the past two decades demonstrate the fact that chaos cannot sway the oil market.

In the opinion of oil buyers, said the Saudi minister, security means their ability to have oil at reasonable prices as a backing for their economic development, "but as far as producers are concerned their security lies in their ability to have continual access to the markets of petroleum buyers."

Referring to the Persian Gulf crisis, he said the solution to the problem lies in the region itself, "for example, when the flow of oil from Iraq and Kuwait stopped, Saudi Arabia compensated for as much as 80 per cent of the total drop in oil from the Persian Gulf."

Nazir said as big oil producers in this part of the world, Saudi Arabia and other petroleum exporting countries are committed to maintain the security of the oil resources in the event of a freeze in production or same as a result of political issues.

He defended the Saudi action to stockpile and produce more crude "within the proximity of the markets of the big importer countries" and said, such a move has contributed to the stability of the international status of oil.

The Saudi Petroleum Minister Hisham M. Nazir in his address criticized the oil taxation policies of many of the buyer countries which he said are at times a lot higher than the price of oil itself. "In many industrialized and developing countries as well, the taxes per barrel are twice the price of oil," he said.

"Net receipts from the taxation of oil products have been for many industrialized countries higher than the export revenues of the oil exporting countries themselves," he said.

He added that "petroleum taxation continues in many countries irrespective of oil price changes, thus denying the consumers the fruits of oil price decline and adding to the burden of increases in the price of oil. For example, in Western Europe the average per barrel tax increased by 132 per cent between 1980 and 1990 while the price of imported oil declined by 30 per cent."

He said elsewhere in his address: "As producers of a vital commodity and as members of the community of developing nations, we are very much concerned about the trend to globalize some industrialized countries petroleum taxation experience or environmental concerns, whether through international aid or trade organizations or through international forums on the environment."

In conclusion, the Saudi petroleum minister expressed hope that oil producers will continue to cooperate in the interest of market stability, and that oil consumers too, will play their role to make energy cooperation more meaningful at the global level.

OPEC Secretary General on Conference

LD2605133991 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Esfahan, May 26, IRNA—Secretary-General of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Dr. Subroto arrived here Sunday to attend the international conference on oil and gas to start in this historical city on Monday.

In his meeting with Conference Chairman and Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki, Subroto predicted that oil demand would increase considerably until 1995, reaching 56 million barrels a year.

He said the 13-nation OPEC which currently supplies half of the world's oil needs, "will play a more important role in the near future."

The Indonesian oil expert believed that the 3-day conference whose theme is 'prospects for cooperation in the

1990s', will create more harmony among member states and help them further upgrade their role on the international scene.

Dr. Subroto also stressed on "the role Iran and one or two other member states can play in strengthening role of OPEC on the international scene."

The aim behind the three-day international conference is to promote mutual relationship and possible understanding in the interest of Third World countries.

The confab's agenda includes the prospects for international developments in the 1990s, the status of international oil and gas markets, the structure of oil industries in the world, environment, and oil and gas industries in the Middle East and Iran.

Subroto on OPEC Issues

LD2705114191 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Esfahan, May 27, IRNA—Secretary General of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Dr. Subroto said here Sunday that the organization has to find out the reasons for having failed to push the oil prices to dlrs. 21 per barrel. Dr. Subroto, who is here for the three-day conference on "Oil and Gas in 1990s, Prospects for Cooperation" further told IRNA that the average index price for a basket of OPEC crude was dlrs. 17.87 in May 1991 while it was set at dlrs. 18.87 for the first five months of the year. The OPEC oil ministers in the next session scheduled for June 4 in Vienna will decide increasing the production ceiling for the second half of 1991, he said. Subroto underlined that OPEC experts in the recent session of OPEC's Economic Commission were unanimous on the need for increasing the production ceiling by one million barrels per day (BPD) for the third quarter and by two million BPD for the fourth quarter of the year. Commenting on oil production of Kuwait and Iraq which came to a halt in the course of the Persian Gulf war, he said not only technical problems but also political questions are involved in case of Iraq and it is not yet known when and how Iraq and Kuwait are to rejoin the OPEC quota system. Following the Persian Gulf war OPEC authorized other members to increase their output up to a specific level so as to compensate for Kuwait's and Iraq's absence. According to Subroto even if Kuwait and Iraq resume production by the end of the first half of the year there will be no cause for concern because there is an increasing demand for OPEC oil. He termed as "very important and timely" the holding of the conference in Esfahan. "The conference is the initial step for cooperation between producers and consumers and national and international oil companies," he told IRNA. "I am sure that the conference will help promote understanding between the producers and consumers and will define the prospect for such cooperation." On stablizing OPEC prices, he said it can be attained through changes in production ceiling, benchmark prices, or both. Asked whether he is willing to continue to remain in his post as OPEC's secretary general, he said that he was ready to continue to cooperate with OPEC, if the OPEC ministers re-elect him in the forthcoming OPEC session.

Pakistan

USSR Accused of Supplying MiG-29's, Scuds to Kabul

BK2705100691 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 26 May 91 p 9

[Text] The Soviet Union supplied 20 modern jet fighters to the puppet regime, on May 21. MIDIA's [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] stringer who has recently returned from Kabul to Peshawar, reported that the Russians supplied these jet fighters to the communist regime, accoding to an agreement signed previously.

According to the report, the communist regime would use the planes for bombardment over Mujahidin.

The Russians also supplied 400 Scud missiles to Kabul in view of the latest appeal by Najib to the communist ruler, on May 22.

It may be remembered that the latest supply of modern fighter jets, Scud missiles and other lethal weapons to the Kabul regime by the Soviet Union took place at the time while Mujahidin are achieving new military victories, in many provinces of Afghanistan.

Envoy Leaves for Afghan Peace Talks in Moscow

BK2605151891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] Islamabad, May 26 (AFP)—A senior Pakistan Foreign Ministry official left here Sunday for talks in Moscow, amid renewed hopes for a political settlement in Afghanistan following the unveiling of a United Nations peace plan.

Officials here said Riaz Mohammad Khan, a director general, would have "preliminary" discussions on the Afghan issue with Soviet officials during his three-day visit.

The mujahidin capture of Khowst on March 31 upset a planned visit here by a Soviet envoy, Nikolay Kozyrev, for talks on Afghanistan following allegations by Kabul that the Pakistan Army had directly helped the rebels. Islamabad denied the charge.

Pakistan and Kabul have welcomed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's five-point May 21 proposal aimed at paving the way for a settlement, through inter-Afghan dialogue.

The United States and the Soviet Union, the main arms suppliers of the warring groups in Afghanistan, have also blessed the plan which envisages a halt to the supply of weapons.

The plan calls for a transition period involving an impartial mechanism with appropriate authority to enable the Afghan people to participate in free elections for the establishment of a broad- based government.

Mixed signals have emerged from the disparate mujahidin camp.

The fundamentalist Hezb-e-Eslami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has clearly rejected the UN plan but, according to reliable sources, opinion is divided in the six-party rebel Afghan interim government (AIG) based in Pakistan.

The detractors say the UN proposal keeps the door open for inclusion in the process of Kabul's ruling Watan Party, formerly the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan, which is totally unacceptable to the mujahidin.

Akram Zaki, top official at the Foreign Ministry here, was quoted Sunday as saying the Pakistani envoy to Moscow was not carrying any specific proposals to resolve the 12-year old Afghan problem.

"Signals between Islamabad and Moscow have been exchanged on the subject and now we feel we must explore further, face to face," said Mr. Zaki, who had consultations last week in Saudi Arabia and Iran, along with Mr. Khan.

The former ambassador to China, who is now secretary general of foreign affairs, said: "We have chosen the path of political settlement." The visit of Mr. Khan to Moscow was in that direction, he added.

Press reports said Mr. Kozyrev might visit Pakistan for further talks, depending on the outcome of Mr. Khan's Moscow visit.

On his return from Tehran Friday, Mr. Zaki had said the atmosphere was "conducive" to finding a political settlement and that Iran favoured joint efforts with Islamabad for a broad-based Afghan government by affiliating mujahidin groups.

Press reports have said the flurry of diplomatic activity follows an unpublicized decision by Pakistan, which shelters more than three million Afghan refugees, to back a negotiated settlement.

JUI Party Leader Demands U.S. Envoy Expulsion

LD2505190891 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] Islamabad, May 25, IRNA—A leader of the Jami'et-e Ulema-e Islam (JUI) party of Pakistan demanded the immediate expulsion of the American Ambassador Robert Oakley after branding him an "undesirable person."

Senator Hafiz Hussein Ahmad who was speaking to reporters in Multan, Punjab province Friday night called the latest statements made by Oakley as "flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan."

The American ambassador while addressing the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry last Thursday said, "the traders and industrialists by joining hands with the government should persuade the National Assembly of Pakistan not to play politics with the future of the country."

He also said that America no longer recognises Pakistan as a frontline country and so it should sign the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons treaty. Hafiz Husein warned "This was not the first time the American ambassador had interfered in our internal affairs and the JUI would move privilege motions in the both houses of the parliament against the utterances of Oakley."

Zahid Sarfaraz a member of the Pakistan's ruling party in parliament and former interior minister in the caretaker government of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has already accused the American ambassador of interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan and called for his expulsion.

PRC Delegation Discusses Joint Energy Projects

BK2705032091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] The 14-member Chinese delegation led by Vice Minister for Machine Building and Electronics Lu Yansun called on federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad. They exchanged views on Chinese cooperation in setting up new electricity generation projects in Pakistan. The finance minister expressed appreciation for Chinese cooperation in various projects and gave assurances that Pakistan would make efforts to promote Chinese investments in various projects, including those in electricity generation. He stressed the need for export of Pakistani goods to China so as to maintain the balance of payments.

Lu Yansun also called on Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Mr Akram Zaki. He expressed appreciation for Chinese assistance to Pakistan in achieving self reliance in rural engineering.

Visit to Akram Zaki

BK2705154191 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 27 May 91 pp I, IV

[Text] Islamabad—Mr. Lu Yansun, Chinese Vice-Minister for Machinery and Electronics, called on Mr. Akram Zaki, Secretary- General, Foreign Affairs here on Sunday.

Talking to the Chinese delegation, Mr Zaki said that the cooperation between Pakistan and China had grown in diverse fields to the mutual benefit of the two countries. Our relations, which were based on the principles of peaceful co-existence, were exemplary and had stood the test of time.

The Secretary-General expressed appreciation for Chinese assistance which had helped Pakistan achieve a measure of self- reliance in heavy engineering and

industrial sector. He expressed the hope that the economic cooperation between the two countries would continue to expand.

The Secretary-General particularly noted the contribution and assistance being provided by the Chinese Ministry of Machinery and Electronics Industry to the development of power sector in Pakistan. He cited Guddu and Jamshoro power units as examples of cooperation between the two countries in the field of power generation.

The Secretary-General added that China's decision to supply a 300 MW nuclear power plant to Pakistan would help overcome the energy shortfall currently being faced.

The Chinese Vice-Minister expressed satisfaction over the discussions he had held with the Pakistani officials and hoped that his visit would further promote cooperation between Pakistan and China in the fields of power and energy, through the construction of more power units in southern Punjab.

Meanwhile, the Chinese delegation also called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Mr Sartaj Aziz here on Sunday and discussed matters of mutual interest with particular stress on promotion of Pak-China cooperation in establishment of new projects in the power generation sector.

The Federal Minister for Finance appreciated the cooperation being provided by China in various projects and assured continued support for establishment of Pak-China joint venture and Chinese investment in energy generation projects. He stressed the need for maximum participation of the local manufacturers in the completion of power generation projects particularly in the context of boilers, steel structure and electrical equipment.

He said that Chinese collaboration both in public and private sector projects would be welcomed. He said that Chinese investors and contractors should consider making maximum use of local engineering manufacturing facilities available in Pakistan.

Mr Sartaj Aziz also laid emphasis for adoption of measures to enhance exports of Pakistan manufactured products to China in order to create balance in trade between the two countries.

Mr Lu Yansun thanked the minister for continued support to China for setting up joint ventures in Pakistan.

The Secretary Ministry of Water and Power Mr Abdur Rahman Mahsud was also present in the meeting.

Delegation Meets Production Minister

BK2805060691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] A high-level Chinese delegation led by Lu Yansun, the vice minister for machine building and electronics, called on federal Production Minister Islam Nabi in Islamabad yesterday. They discussed matters relating to promotion of bilateral cooperation in industrial and technical fields. The production minister appreciated China's assistance to Pakistan, especially in the establishment of heavy mechanical complex and heavy foundry and forge in the country. He underscored the need for wider cooperation with China in the field of technology transfer, manpower training, and joint marketing of products.

The Chinese minister assured Pakistan of his country's assistance in the establishment of the projects identified by the production minister. He agreed to ensure transfer of necessary technology to complete these projects.

Cabinet Discusses Sharif India Visit, Afghanistan

BK2705165091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] The Federal Cabinet at its meeting in Islamabad today took a number of important decisions including approval to Agha Khan Fund for Economic Development for operating a new airline in the private sector. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif presided. Briefing newsmen about decisions of the meeting, Adviser on Information and Broadcasting Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said the new airline would be allowed to compete freely on primary domestic routes and it would be required to operate on secondary and feeder routes on agreed basis. The airline will be required to start commercial operations within four months of issue of license. After two years of its satisfactory operations, it may be allowed to operate on international routes. The Cabinet decided to allow the private sector to develop two new airports at Rawalpindi and Lahore. The prime minister directed that the number of satellite [word indistinct] to be provided at Karachi airport be increased from two to four for convenience of passengers.

The Cabinet approved the setting up of two new textile colleges in the private sector at Hyderabad and Multan. It approved the legislation to amend the drug act empowering courts to confiscate property acquired from narcotics trafficking. Through another legislation approved by the cabinet, WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] has authorized to own shares or equity in the proposed Lakhra coal mines development company. It was decided to bring Constitution 12th Amendment Bill to provide for enhancement of salaries of Supreme Court judges.

The prime minister briefed the Cabinet about his recent visit to New Delhi to attend late Rajiv Gandhi's last rites and meetings with various Indian and world leaders. He told the meeting about realization he had found at different political levels in India for normalization of relations with Pakistan. He said Pakistan's contacts would continue with the next government which comes into power as a result of the current election to take the process forward.

The Cabinet was also briefed on Afghanistan and it approved the policy being pursued by the government for a political settlement of the issue. In this connection,

Pakistan has already held consultations with Iran and Saudi Arabia on the five-point proposal of the UN secretary general, while similar consultations were underway with the Soviet Union.

The adviser said the Cabinet endorsed the policy on Kashmir. It was decided to apprise the Amnesty International about human rights violation by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir.

Beg on 'Negotiated Settlement' on Kashmir

BK2605162691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 May 91

[Text] The chief of the Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said Pakistan Army has the capability to provide impregnable defense to the country and enjoy confidence in combat effectiveness to accomplish all assigned tasks. Talking to student officers of the Pakistan Naval Staff College in Karachi today, he said the Army is determined to use its capability to the utmost should a threat be posed to the security of the country. The faith and determination to employ this capability has given Pakistan Army a new confidence in providing guarantee to the country's territorial integrity.

The army chief said our main problem with India is the issue of Kashmir, which needs to be resolved. He said an answer to a lasting peace in the region lies in a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir issue as suggested by the prime minister.

Senate Adopts Islamic Law Bill; Amendments Rejected

BK2805141891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] The Senate adopted the Enforcement of Sharia [Islamic Law] Bill in Islamabad this afternoon. The house rejected a number of amendments, while some were withdrawn by the movers following clarification by the minister of state for parliamentary affairs. The minister of state said that the Sharia Bill is part of the government's measures under which the people could mold their lives according to the Koran and the teachings and practices of the Prophet.

Sri Lanka

Government To Stop Offensive Operations 26-29 May

BK2405124391 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 May 91

[Text] The government has decided to declare a cessation of offensive operations beginning on the midnight of Sunday, the 26th, until the midnight of Wednesday, the 29th, by considering appeals of many members of the Mahasangha [Buddhist clergy], religious leaders of all denominations, and Buddhist associations. This was stated by Defense Secretary General Cyril Ranatunga at the weekly cabinet news briefing at the parliamentary complex in Sri Jayewardenepura, Kotte, yesterday. The religious leaders reminded that the period of Baisakh [Buddhist festival] provides the opportunity of practicing one of the teachings of the Buddha, which is nonviolence. They pointed out that this is the cornerstone of all religions practiced in the country.

During this period of the cessation of offensive operations, it is expected that all people, especially the religious leaders and elders of all communities, will take the opportunity to guide the youths who have resorted to violence to discontinue violence and follow the path of ahimsa or nonviolence. All police stations and detachments of the security forces in the island have been issued instructions to give all protection within their means and provide maximum security and facilities to those youths who present themselves at their locations having renounced violence.

Answering a question raised by newsmen, General Ranatunga said that parents of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres had also appealed to the defense authorities to stop offensive operations during this period, and added that the government troops would retaliate if the LTTE violates the cessation of hostilities.

General Cyril Ranatunga referred to a few important operations carried out by the security forces. During the operations in the Batticaloa area, which included Kaluvanchikudiyirippu, (Theriyapuddu), Kokkadichcholai, and Aiyittiyamalai, lasting for four and a half days, the security forces wiped out many terrorist camps and captured several weapons. These resulted in the killing of 25 terrorists and the arrest of five. Six were wounded in another operation at (Kanchikuddichai Thiaru) in Amparai, which also lasted a few days. The security forces destroyed some of the camps of the terrorists on information. They captured several weapons, including antipersonnel Claymore mines and transistor radios. In the operations at Nawalapitiya in Polonnaruwa, some terrorists are believed to have been killed and several others badly wounded. Some weapons were also recovered.

In the northern front, General Ranatunga said that the security forces conducted operations at Palali and Mullaitivu. Certain bunkers of the terrorists have been destroyed. He also said that the Navy had intensified the operations in the northern coast. Present at the news briefing was the Air Chief Marshal Walter Fernando.

Suspension in Northeast Reported

BK2705035091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Sri Lankan security forces have declared a three-day cessation of offensive operations against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the northeast from midnight last night in view of the religious Vesak festival. All police stations and security forces have been instructed to give protection and facilities to those who renounce violence.

Our Colombo correspondent reports that this is the second time that security forces have suspended operation against the LTTE. Earlier, a 10-day suspension of operation had taken place at the beginning of the year.

Tamil Rebels Violate Truce With Ambush

BK2805090091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Colombo, May 28 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil tiger guerrillas Tuesday wiped out a jeep-load of soldiers in eastern Sri Lanka, shattering a limited ceasfire marking a major Buddhist religious festival, officials here said.

Gunmen believed to be from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired at and killed all eight soldiers in the jeep on its way to escort a civilian bus in Trincomalee District, local officials said.

It was the biggest attack against troops since Colombo declared a unilateral suspension of "offensive operations" for three days starting Monday to mark wesak, or the anniversary of Buddha's birth, enlightenment and passing away.

"It is routine for troops to go to the bus depot and escort civilian buses because passengers have been targetted by the LTTE. Today the escort jeep was attacked," an official said. He said the attackers escaped with the weapons of the eight soldiers gunned down in the guerrilla-infested Padaviya-Pulmudai area of Trincomalee port district.

A military spokesman here said the killings came as a surprise as the tigers were not expected to strike on a day when the rest of the country was celebrating Buddhism's biggest festival.

The attack also came a day after President Ranasinghe Premadasa in a wesak message expressed the hope that "this auspicious day will be the beginning of an era of peace for our motherland."

The military spokesman said the LTTE had kept up firing mortar bombs and small arms at Elephant Pass, Vasavilan and Palaly army camps in the north during the truce period but there had been no casualties among security forces.

A police vehicle too had been fired at in eastern Batticaloa District but again there were no casualties. The rebels also fired at an army convoy transporting food to soldiers in northwestern Mannar Disrtrict Monday, the spokesman said.

The truce was aimed at allowing disgruntled guerrillas to surrender in the island's embattled north east where the LTTE is fighting to establish a separate state.

Security forces were ordered to give "all protection within their means and provide maximum security and facilities to those youths who present themselves at their locations having renounced violence," a government notice said.

There were no reports of anybody surrendering to troops since the truce began.

Defence Secretary General Cyril Ranatunga said he did not expect large numbers to give themselves up, but he hoped the temporary suspension of operations would give an opportunity to those who wanted to surrender.

Gen. Ranatunga said troops would not let down their guard during the three day period and reserved the right to hit back if attacked by the LTTE.

In another development, Inspector General of Police Ernest Perera in a statement Tuesday asked residents here to inform police of any suspicious persons following information that LTTE men were seeking shelter in Colombo.

"It has come to the notice of the authorities that LTTE members deserting, or leaving their ranks or under such guise have taken temporary residence in Colombo," he said.

Since the LTTE resumed its guerrilla campaign last June, ending 14 months of peace talks with Colombo, nearly 7,000 people have died in bitter fighting.

Further Violations Reported

BK2905085191 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0806 GMT 29 May 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 May (LANKAPUVATH)—The three day cessation of offensive operations by the security forces against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to mark Wesak [Buddhist festival], ends at midnight today.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the terrorists had staged ten attacks against the security forces from midnight on 26 May up to this morning.

Eight soldiers were killed when LTTE cadres opened fire on an army picket at Pulmoddai in the Trincomalee District on Tuesday [28 May].

A ten year old boy was killed and two other civilians wounded in the crossfire that followed an LTTE attack on the security forces at Kokkadichcholai.

Terrorists fired at security force camps at Elephant Pass, Kankesanturai, Palali, and Vasavilan in Jaffna.

They opened fire at a party of soldiers on an administrative detail at Nanaddan in Mannar.

A routine security force patrol was fired at by a group of 20-25 LTTE cadres at Janakapuram in Weli Oya. They left behind one body at Janakapuram. Three more terrorists were believed killed.

At Amparai, the LTTE also fired at the police post at Sinnawatte and at a combined STF [Special Task Force]-security forces patrol at Bakiella.

In both instances the terrorists fled when government troops returned fire.